March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

3月のライオン

羽海野チカ

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2

JETS COMICS

3月のライオン

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羽海野チカ

白泉社
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「勝つ理由が無い」とかいいながら
負けると苦しいのは何故だ。
桐山は将棋に対する中途半端さに
思い悩む日々を過ごしていた。
川本家との交流の中で
明るいひなたの笑顔に元気づけられる。
そんな彼の前に義姉・香子が現れる…。
様々な人間が、何かを取り戻していく
優しい物語です。

（平成20年11月刊行）

message

「著者近影」

羽海野チカ

Chica Umino

我が家のヤングアニマル☆ゴンちゃんです
いつだって元気いっぱい眠ってます！
24時間中22時間くらい眠ってます!!

この写真はなぜか頼っている所がお気に入りです☆

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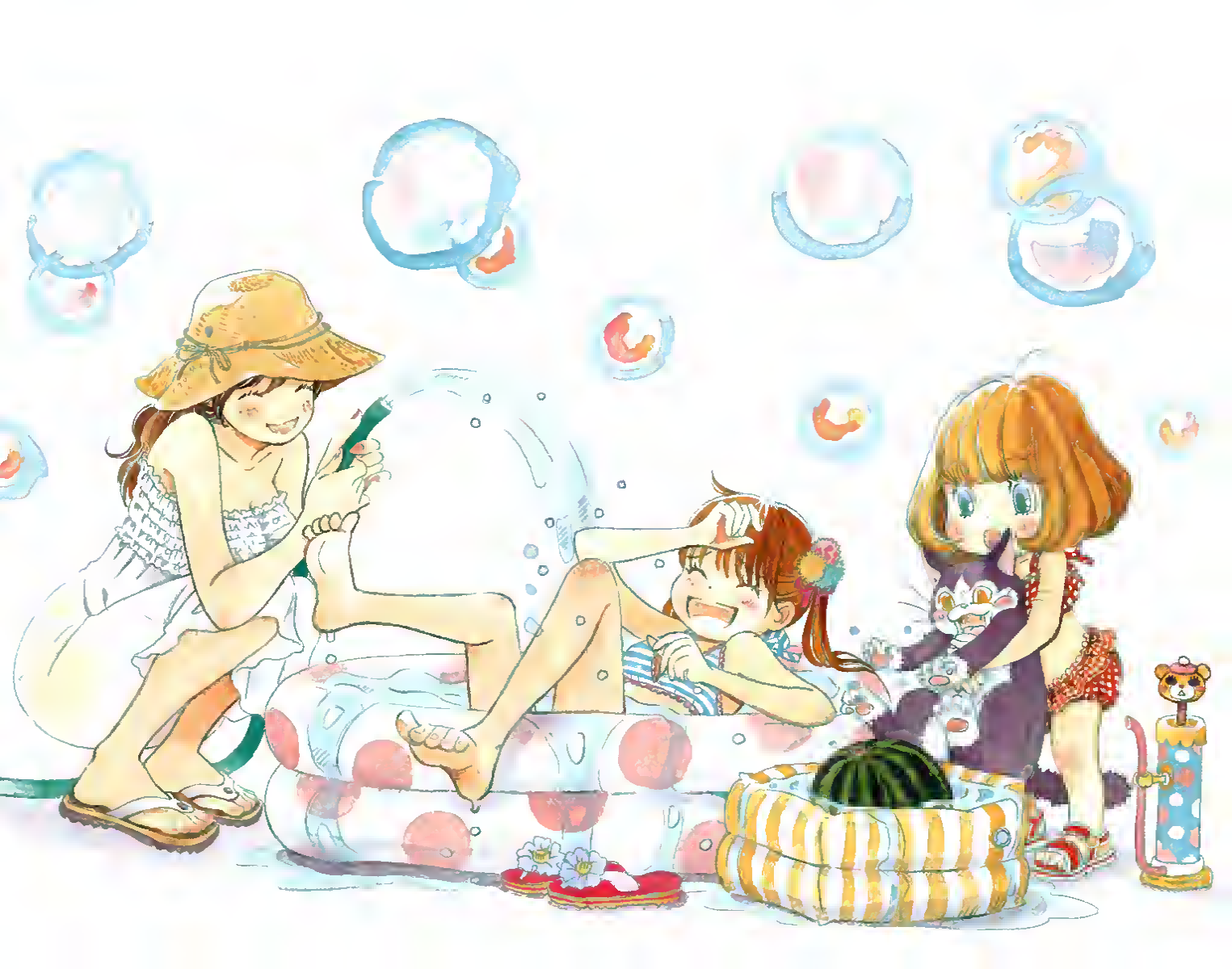
March comes in like a lion

3月のライオン ● 羽海野チカ

3月のライオン

羽海野チカ

Chica Umino



3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

羽海野チカ
将棋監修●先崎学八段

2

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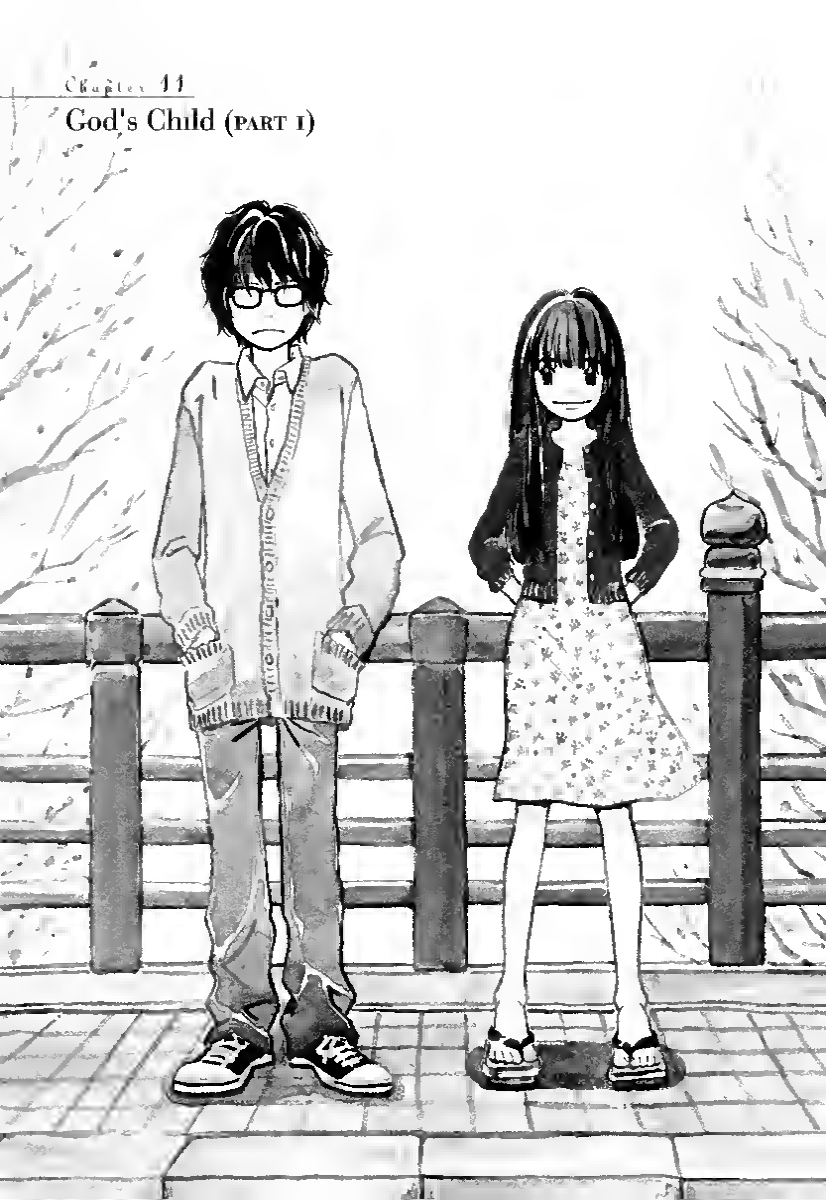
Chapter 11

God's Child (PART 1)



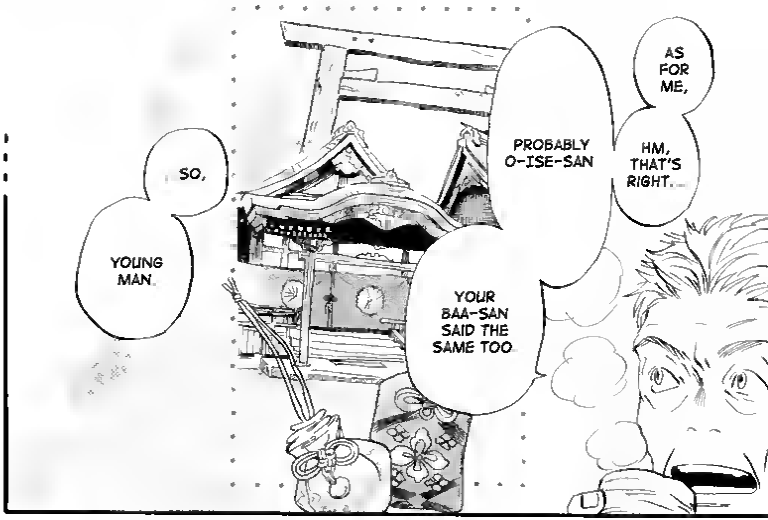
3月のライオン

I REALLY WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE...
It accidentally slipped from my mouth.
EH?
WHERE DOES REI-KUN WANT TO GO?
EH? WHERE, WHERE?
GO?
AH...
Let me try a tiny bit
What is that thing!?
Yotsuba&!
©KIYOHIKO AZUMA / KADOKAWA SHOTEN

WELLL, LET'S SEE...
I WANT TO GO TO DOSNEY-LAND
OR HOW ABOUT ENOSHIMA?
Oh, oh, and Chinatown! The one in Yokohama☆
Meat buns!
Shrimp with chili sauce!
And almond jelly!!
Wah..!

Momo! Momo wants to.. go potato digging!
And after that, soy sauce factory!
HMM? AREN'T THOSE PLACES THAT YOU WENT TO FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP, MOMO?
THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU WANT TO GO, EH. WHERE YOU WANT TO GO.
LOOKS LIKE YOU HAD FUN POTATO DIGGING THOUGH,
YOU KEEP MENTIONING IT

WHERE DOES ONEE-CHAN WANT TO GO?
HMM.
SOMEWHERE WITH A BEAUTIFUL OCEAN, WHERE I CAN RELAX,
TAKE A NAP WHILE AT THE SPA,
DURING AROMA THERAPY OR A MASSAGE
AH, BUT,
IF DINNER SERVED ITSELF WITHOUT ME DOING ANYTHING, THAT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY TOO.
Heh!
THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF US!!
SFX: EHEHE (EH HEH HEH)
SFX: TON TON (PAT PAT)


SO,
YOUNG MAN.
YOUR BAA-SAN SAID THE SAME TOO.
PROBABLY O-ISE-SAN
HM, THAT'S RIGHT...
AS FOR ME,

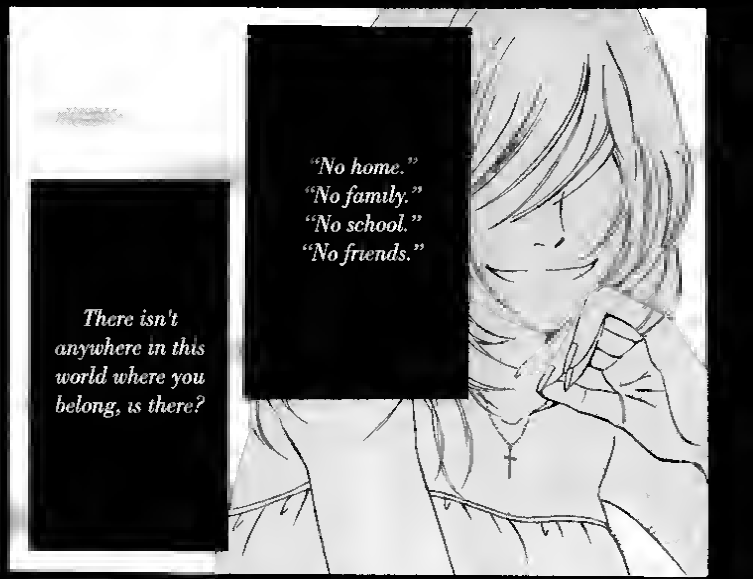
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

I really don't have "a place I want to go"
I suddenly realized after being asked,
AH..
It wasn't that I "wanted to go somewhere".

But rather that I just "wanted to end up going somewhere"
SO KIRIYAMA,
YOU'RE NOT ATTENDING THIS YEAR'S FIELD TRIP
LET'S SEE
MM,
YOU HAVE RANKING BATTLES COMING UP, SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED
YOU'RE ALREADY PRO LEVEL, SO THIS IS A JOB
BUT, WHAT A SHAME
FIELD TRIPS ARE A BIG THING FOR A STUDENT
It is true that I was a little bit disappointed
Missing a shogi match is absolutely not allowed for any reason other than the death of an immediate family member
YES

Not because I "couldn't attend",
but that I "felt relieved" because it was resolved so easily.
BUT...
CAN YOU PLEASE...
NOT SHOW YOUR "I-AM-SO-RELIEVED" FACE SO EASILY?
YOU HAVE NO FRIENDS. IF I WERE TO SUDDENLY THROW YOU IN WITH A GROUP OF GUYS WHOM YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER TALKED TO BEFORE, AND YOU HAD TO SLEEP WITH THEM FOR FIVE DAYS AND FOUR NIGHTS— INDEED THAT WOULD BE HARD. QUITE HARD. BUT YOU KNOW...
BUT, I CAN UNDER-STAND.
Is it really that obvious...
Crap, he saw through me.
SENSEI, LET'S SHOW SOME TACT... MORE SUBTLETY...
Blunt much?
SFX: HAA (SIGH)

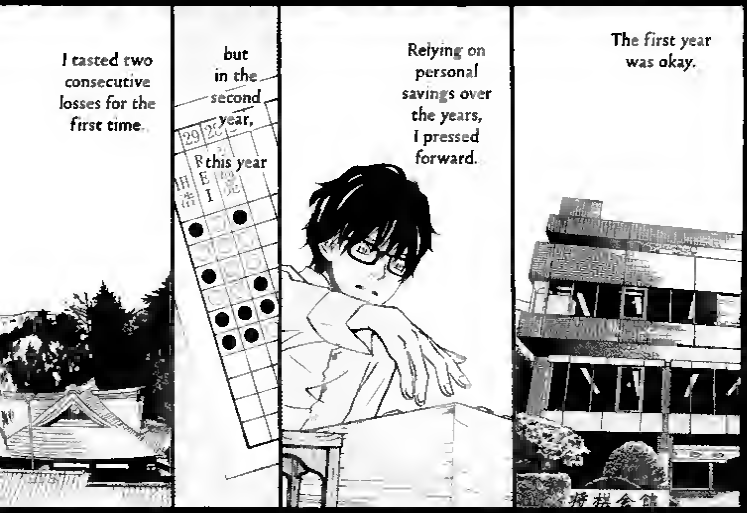
Hey!
DON'T AGREE SO EASILY!
Eh!
I KNOW, RIGHT?
IN THIS CASE...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANTED TO RE-ENROLL IN HIGH SCHOOL
SFX: FUU... (SIGH...)


"No home."
"No family."
"No school."
"No friends."
There isn't anywhere in this world where you belong, is there?

Even though Kyoko's words pierced my heart,
they didn't make me angry or sad
It's just that
I thought, "It's just as you described".
Holding on to such thoughts, I clung desperately to the short board.
I thought that if I relied on my own strength to live, maybe that place would become "place where I belonged".
That's why I wanted to become a pro.

NEWSPAPER (BOTTOM): KIRIYAMA REI ARE 15 YRS' 5TH IN HISTORY A NEW STAR IN THE SHOGI WORLD
NEWSPAPER (TOP): MIDDLE SCHOOL PRO IS BORN (5TH IN HISTORY) KIRIYAMA REI (15)
I didn't have much luggage
so moving didn't take long.
桐山零 (15)
And then, my dream became reality...
I slept non-stop everyday.
like a battery without electricity, other than matches and school...
in a room without curtains or a TV,
For a while after that,
but when it was for my own sake,
even cooking felt too annoying,
so I stopped.
In the previous household, I would feel like doing chores because it was helping out,
I don't know why, but every day I felt very sleepy, so sleepy that I couldn't help it

Class C, Group 1 had 30 people, so there were matches with ten people.

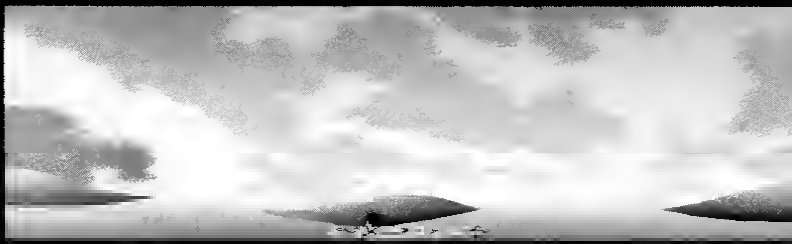

I tasted two consecutive losses for the first time.
but in the second year,
this year
Relying on personal savings over the years, I pressed forward.
The first year was okay.

Depending on the number of victories, only two will be able to join Class B, Group 2.

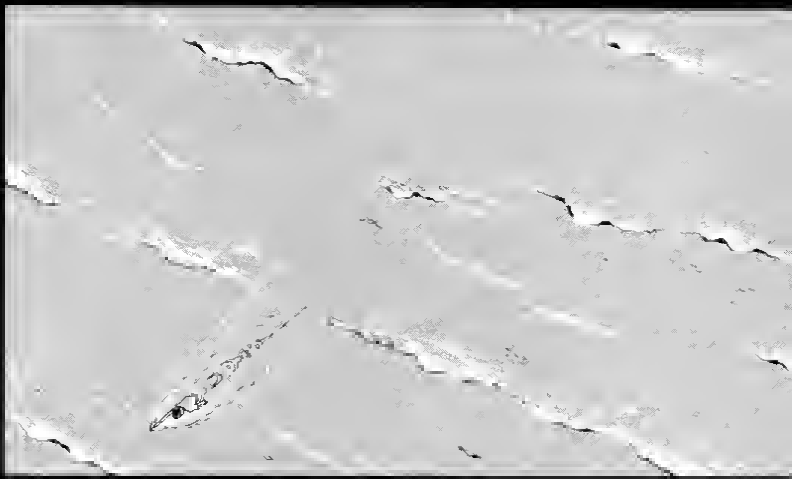
Advancement requires a flawless record or nearly all matches won.

I swam ..

I swam ..



I swam .. I swam .. I swam ..



I swam .. I swam... I swam until the end...

The island that I used all my strength to reach...
If I can get there, then everything should be all right
If I can get there...
If I can just remain there

If I don't have too much hope...

If I can just accept stagnancy...

If I can just stop thinking...

There was no more.

No more reason to plunge once more into the stormy seas.

No more reason to forge ahead to the next island.

Not a single reason left at all.

Chapter 11 end

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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3月のライオン

Chapter 12

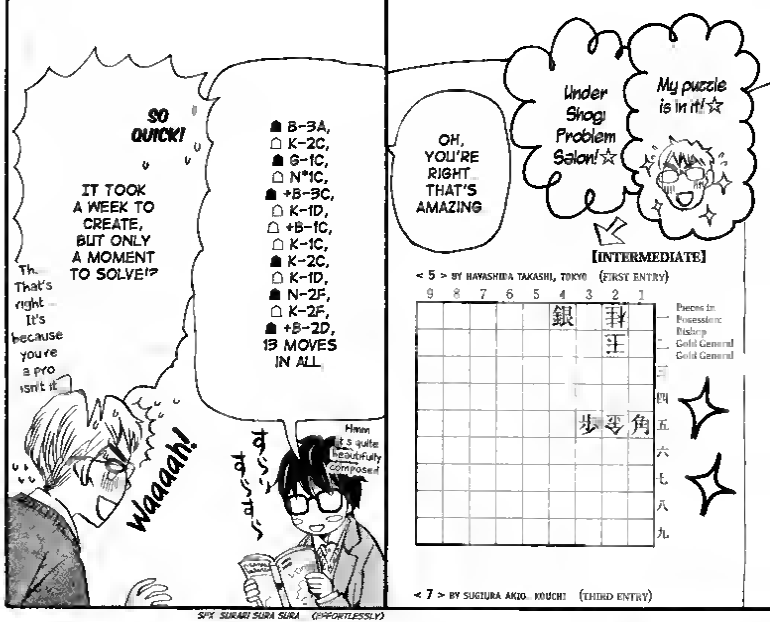
God's Child (PART 2)

What a cold name
That's what I thought when I saw him for the first time.
But, I can no longer remember when that "first" time was.

For such a long time,
I took his existence for granted
Souya Touji.

God's child in our land.

NOT A SOCCER BALL TODAY?
SFX PARI (CRUNCH)
105
LABEL: 105 YEN
LABEL: YAKISOBA BUN
SENSEI
AS EXPECTED, IT'S ALREADY COLD OUTSIDE
BUT EVEN HERE IT'S QUITE COLD
MAGAZINE: SHOGI WORLD
SOUYA-MEIJIN
BYOUSHOU TITLE MATCH
SFX: UFUFU (OHOHO)
FUFUFU... KIRI-YAMA,
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS
SFX: PAKA (SHAMBLE)
THE LATEST ISSUE OF SHOGI WORLD
将棋世界


SO QUICK!
IT TOOK A WEEK TO CREATE, BUT ONLY A MOMENT TO SOLVE!?
Th. That's right. It's because you're a pro, isn't it
Waaaah!
☗B-3A, ☖K-2C, ☗G-1C, ☖N*1C, ☗+B-3C, ☖K-1D, ☖+B-1C, ☖K-1C, ☗K-2C, ☖K-1D, ☗N-2F, ☖K-2F, ☗+B-2D, 13 MOVES IN ALL
すごい すごすぎる
Hmm it's quite beautifully composed
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT THAT'S AMAZING
Under Shogi Problem Salon!☆
My puzzle is in it!☆
【INTERMEDIATE】
< 5 > BY HAYASHIDA TAKASHI, TOKYO (FIRST ENTRY)
9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Pieces in Possession: Bishop, Gold General, Gold General
一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九
< 7 > BY SUGIURA AKIO, KOUCHI (THIRD ENTRY)

SPT SURAGI SURA SURA (EFFORTLESSLY)

I WONDER WHAT HE'S LIKE?
YOU'VE NEVER MET HIM? EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE BOTH PROS?
I WONDER TOO
RATHER THAN "MET HIM", I'VE "SEEN HIM"
WE BELONG TO DIFFERENT CLASSES, AND RIGHT NOW, MOST OF THE TITLES ARE HELD BY HIM
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY CHANCE TO MEET HIM IN A TOURNAMENT
HE WAS IN THE SAME GRADE AS ME
BUT HIS FACE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE HIS TEENS
HOW CAN I PUT IT... IT'S AS IF TIME HAS STOPPED FOR HIM
IT'S A MYSTERY

MAGAZINE FIFTH TIME IN HISTORY
THE BIRTH OF A PRO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT
IT REMINDS ME OF THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU,
IT WAS ALSO THE SAME FEATURE OF THIS MAGAZINE
HM?
OH YEAH
THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM WAS WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
THERE WAS A FEATURE ON "THE BIRTH OF A PRO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT"
Sensei! Like I've said before, show me a bit more subtlety
WHETHER YOU'RE REALLY HERE OR NOT
EVEN THOUGH I NEVER KNOW
Even though you eat lunch all alone by yourself
BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY AN INCREDIBLE GUY...
I FORGET WHEN I SEE YOU LIKE THIS IN FRONT OF ME,
AH... I SEE.
HEY NOW, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? HOLD YOURSELF TOGETHER, FUTURE MEIJIN
"We're looking forward to it You're called the future Meijin after all"
On the other hand, as the fifth case, I
And afterwards, all four of them either became Meijin or a title holder
In the history of shogi, there have previously only been four instances where a middle school student became a pro
AREN'T YOU BEING SELF-COMPLACENT BECAUSE PEOPLE THINK YOU'RE A GENIUS?
"Even prodigies get in a slump sometimes"

SCANLATOR'S NOTE: THE JAPANESE WORDS FOR "WIN" AND "PORK CUTLET" (KATSU) SOUND THE SAME, BUT ARE WRITTEN DIFFERENTLY

Ah,
I see Sensei is thinking about my string of defeats...
YOU WIN AGAINST "YOURSELF"... NO?
BUT NOT REALLY...
PERHAPS, IN THESE SITUATIONS,
ANYWAY... SAY, KIRIYAMA
IT'LL BE EVEN COLDER NEXT MONTH
YOU SHOULD TRY TO EAT IN THE CLASSROOM...
OH NO,
BUT IF YOU EAT BY YOURSELF IN THE CLASSROOM, YOU'LL STAND OUT...
Oh dear
Like I said, Sensei. Tact with subtlety☆...
Oh I get it It's broken, isn't it? Your subtlety That must be it
thin smile
SFX: HA (GASP!)
Sensei... I think I would stand out even more...
Ah!
Then why don't I eat lunch with you!?
はっ??

SCANLATOR'S NOTE: LOSSES ARE MARKED WITH BLACK STARS AS OPPOSED TO WINS WHICH ARE MARKED WITH WHITE STARS, SO LOSSES USE MORE INK

I understand it in my mind, but why can't I move?
I say that I have "no reasons left to win", but then why am I bitter when I lose?
I'm lukewarm...

about everything...
Ah!
Rei-chan!
HINA-CHAN
IS REI-CHAN ON HIS WAY TO THE SHOPPING DISTRICT TOO?
I'M GOING THERE TOO. TO THE BOOK-STORE.
WHY DON'T WE GO TOGE-THER?
REI-CHAN, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN COMING OVER LATELY, HAVE YOU?
LAST NIGHT, WE HAD GYOZA, YOU KNOW?
You should've come
WE MADE THEM ALL FROM SCRATCH, INCLUDING THE WRAPPERS, AND THEY WERE SO DELICIOUS
100円
BANNER: SHAKE

BANNER: MEGSHAKE ONLY ¥100!
メグシェイク
¥100
……
……
MM…
IS THAT SO…?
SFX: PAAAA… (CLOSE UP…)
¥290
¥100
352
¥100
¥100
¥100

SFX: BUN BUN (SMISH SMISH)
NO, IT'S FINE. Only 100 yen..
IT'S OKAY, THAT'D BE BAD!
EH!!
HAH, W-WH...
HOW ABOUT I BUY IT FOR YOU?
SFX: JUUU (SLUUURP)
It's cold and thick.
and so yummy!
SFX: GUUU (GU-GULP)
Looks like it's her first time being treated by a guy
TH
THANK YOU
Wah!
OKAY
Here you go
Rei-chan really looks
dispirited

YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT LEAVE HIM BE FOR A BIT NOW EVERYBODY HAS TIMES LIKE THESE
REI-CHAN HASN'T BEEN COMING OVER LATELY
HE MUST HAVE REMEMBERED
REI-CHAN CRIED
THE TEARS CAME POURING DOWN
Onei-chan said that, but...
Eh?
Want some?
But...

Even though Rei-chan is always quiet and like an adult,
I worry about him because he also cries easily.
Um, today's going to be tempura.
Pumpkin or green onion,
when Onei-chan fries them, it's super yummy.
.....
SO,
SO...
Come over!
Let's have dinner together, okay?
Chapter 12 end

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3月のライオン

NOTES from the translators

Page 24

Perhaps Rei says this because the "Tou" (冬) in "Touji" is the kanji for "winter"

Page 26

Meijin is the most exalted of seven titles in professional shogi. When the position began in the Edo period (16th century) the Meijin was selected through succession, but since 1935 the title is achieved through an annual tournament. The holder of the Meijin title is considered to be the strongest player of the day.

Page 27

He does actually say "soccer ball", but with the furigana of "onigiri" referencing Rei's lunch in volume 1, chapter 2.

Page 28

Kishin, *Seiryuu*, and *Gyokushou* are plays on the real Kisei, Ryuuou and Oushou titles.

Page 35

Gyoza are fried dumplings.

Chapter 13

God's Child (PART 3)

When I think back on it,
...AH,
OKAY
Come over.
this girl,
Hina-chan,
YAY!
is young, but kind.
She's also very level-headed
SFX: CHIKI (CLUCK)
What the heck...
a middle school student worrying about a high school student.
But,

Everyone is doing their best, and yet...

and helps out with the confectionery as well as her aunt's store in Ginza.

It's the same with Akari-san, who takes good care of the whole family

help with the chores, and also help around the store.

Hina-chan has to take care of her little sister,

Speaking of which...

OH,
KAWA-MOTO.
Ah... From that time...
HINA-CHAN?
SFX: KOKO? (HERE?)
SFX: KAA (SHOUT)
SFX: JUSO? (SLURP?)
SFX: CHEEU (SLURP)
SFX: BEKO (CRUMPLE)
AH
UM... ARE YOU A FRIEND?
HERE, HAVE MY SEAT.
I'm just about to leave.
Looks like he's trying his best to get out of the way
SFX: SA (SHH)
The one that Hina-chan likes...
SFX: GANBARE... NE, NO ONE KNOWS (CHANTING)

SFX: FURI FURI (TREMBLE TREMBLE)
SFX: SUTON (SLUMP)
ストン…
……
SFX: GYUU (SQUEEZE)
ギュッ
Kyaa!
pitter patter pitter patter...
(*Ran to the toilet)
Whoa
This... This is awkward...
SFX: GYUUU (SQUEEZEEEE)
ギュゥゥゥ
Ah!
SFX: BAKUSHA (EXPLODE)
ばくしゃっ
KYAA!
SFX: PISSHAA (UNPISSHA)
どばしゃー
UH
UM...
Almost 180 cm
"I've never talked to an athlete before..?"
Wh... What to talk about...
シーン……
SFX: SHHH..... (SILENCE)

UM,
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
AND YOUR FIRST NAME?
AH!
UH
IT'S REI KIRIYAMA REI
MY NAME IS KIRIYAMA.
Why are you using keigo? (lol)
He's staring... staring straight at me?
SFX: JI (STARE)
SO TALL... SO SCARY...
.....

I AM TAKAHASHI YUUSUKE.
NICE TO MEET YOU,
EH?
SFX: PEKORI (BOW)
THE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT
WHO BECAME A SHOGI PRO...
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!
SFX: HA (GASP)

I'VE ALWAYS PLAYED BASEBALL.
HOPING TO BECOME A PRO ONE DAY
BUT, SHOULD I JUST RELY ON BASEBALL JUST LIKE THIS AND BE RECOMMENDED FOR ADMISSION TO A MUNICIPAL HIGH SCHOOL?
OR SHOULD I GO TO ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL WHERE I HAVE A REAL CHANCE OF MAKING IT TO KOSHIEN? I WAS UNCERTAIN.
THEN MY FATHER TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
IN THIS WORLD, THERE ARE PEOPLE, LIKE THIS KID WHO HAS BEEN SURE OF HIS DIRECTION IN LIFE EVER SINCE HE WAS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT AND HAS BECAME A PRO SHOGI PLAYER
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME A PRO, YOU MUST HAVE THE COURAGE TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISION.
BECAUSE OF THAT, I WAS ABLE TO MAKE UP MY MIND ABOUT GOING TO A HIGH SCHOOL IN SHIKOKU.
THE COACH WHO LOOKED AFTER ME DURING A JUNIOR TOURNAMENT INVITED ME THERE.
BUT, I WANTED TO ASK YOU,
ONE YEAR AFTER YOU BECAME A PRO SHOGI PLAYER, YOU ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOL AGAIN.
UM...
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

I realized that much.
this was a question not to be answered offhandedly, but with sincere words...
Looking at his serious expression,
UM...
I DON'T REGRET DECIDING ON THE DIRECTION OF MY LIFE SO EARLY ON...
I LIKE TO STUDY,
BUT I CAN'T FIT IN
I HAVE TROUBLE ASSOCIATING WITH OTHERS
THERE REALLY ISN'T ANYTHING I'M GOOD AT BESIDES SHOGI.
But..
How could I convey it properly?

T-This is to beginning to feel embarrassing... I... What am I saying?

Like this... To a middle school student I just met...

Oh... man...

I WANTED TO HAVE THE MEMORY OF "NOT RUNNING AWAY"...

BUT, PERHAPS,

I THINK.

カーッ!!

SFX: KAA (BLUSH)

MEMORIES OF "RUNNING AWAY" AND "SLACKING OFF".

EVEN THOUGH ONLY YOU WOULD KNOW...

EH?

I SEE...

.....

He got me.
YOU WANTED TO GET RID OF SITUATIONS LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
SO,
EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T SAY IT WELL,
BUT,
IF YOU HAVE EVEN JUST A SMALL MEMORY OF HAVING GIVEN INTO THOUGHTS LIKE "RUNNING AWAY" OR "SLACKING OFF",
YOU WOULD END UP THINKING THAT "NO... BUT THEN, I SLACKED OFF THAT TIME...", AND THEN YOU CAN'T DO IT.
DURING CRITICAL MOMENTS, MY COACH WOULD CONSTANTLY ENCOURAGE ME WITH "BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!"

I kept feeling that...

If I'm not careful...

It felt like my tears would inadvertently flow. I was uneasy.

BUT I...
AH.
OH.
wanted to talk a little bit more
AH!
HEY, TAKA-HASHI!
SORRY WE'RE LATE, LET'S GO!
TOILET
!!
SFX: WAI WAI GUY HEY!

IF YOU COULD GET IN TOUCH THROUGH KAWAMOTO-SAN...
HINA-CHA...
EH? CAN I?
IF YOU DON'T MIND, LET'S CHAT AGAIN
UM,

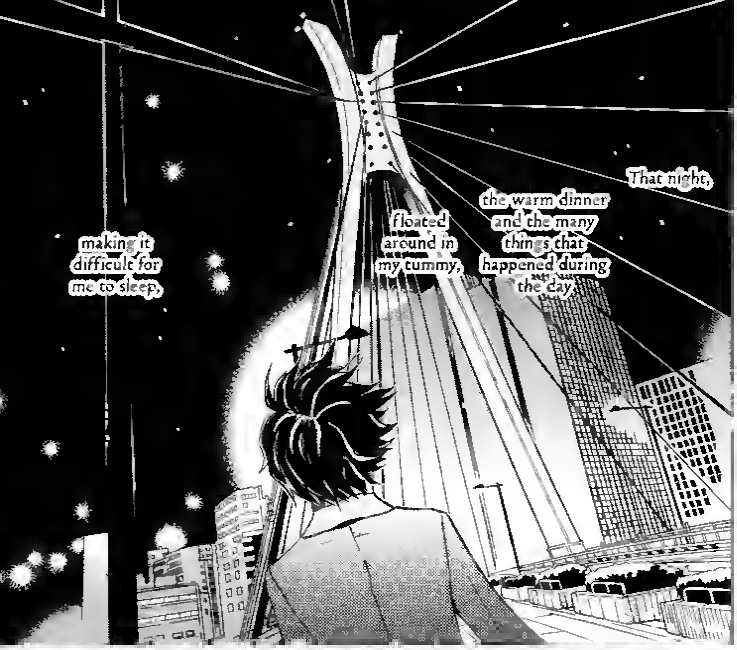
SFX: PEKO (BOW)

SFX: HENA (HORN) SFX: SUTON (SLIDE)

ALL RIGHT
I'LL BE TROUBLING YOU THEN, KAWAMOTO.
Y-AH.
Yeah!
えへ

HE SEEMS KIND OF COOL.
Right!?
He's very level-headed.
So,
WHAT DID YOU TWO TALK ABOUT?
EH,
AH, UM...
Thank you,
Hina-chan!
Kiri-yama-kun!

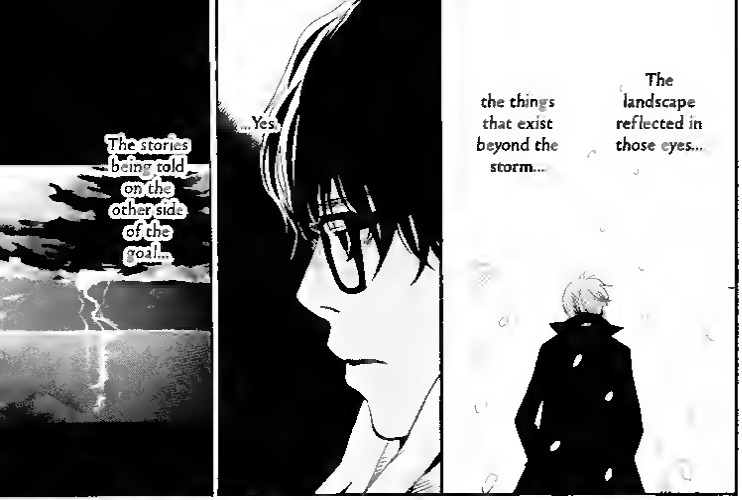
Let's see, let's see
I TURNED ALL THE RICE INTO SHIO-MUSUBI THERE'S ALSO TEMPURA, BOILED EGGS AND PICKLED VEGETABLES
SORRY
Thank you.
Rei-chan, thanks!
Bye!
Thank you for the meal!
My time has come
マルエツ


That night,
the warm dinner and the many things that happened during the day
floated around in my tummy,
making it difficult for me to sleep.

...All of a sudden,

if a day would come when I could ask for advice from someone else...
Just like he had asked me,
I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU,

Someday...


The stories being told on the other side of the goal...
...Yes.
the things that exist beyond the storm...
The landscape reflected in those eyes...

Chapter 13 end

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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3月のライオン

NOTES from the translators

Page 46

Keigo is a form of polite, respectful Japanese speech which conveys formality, social distance, or deference between the participants of a conversation.

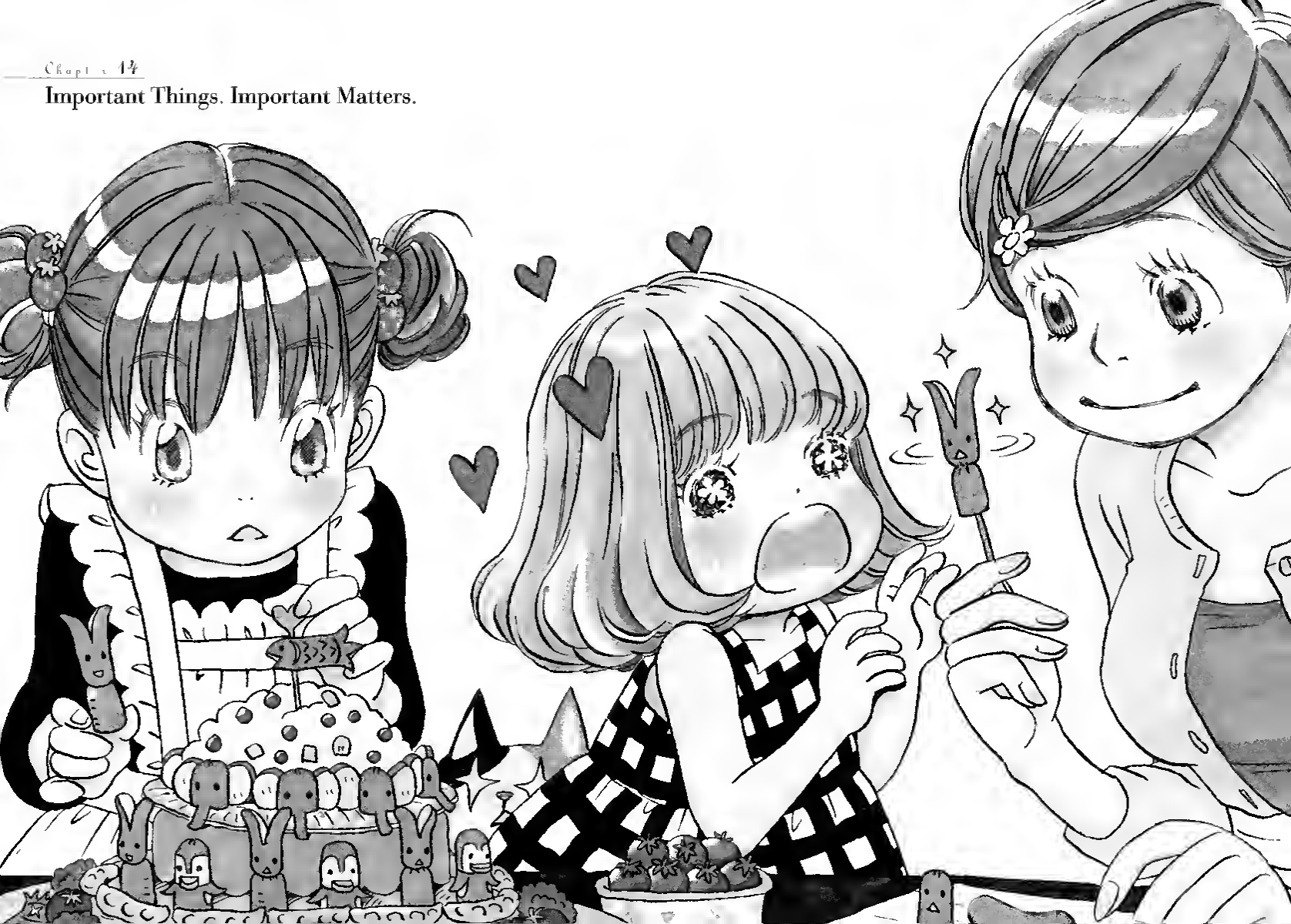
Page 47

Koshien refers to two annual high school baseball tournaments played nationwide culminating in a final showdown at Hanshin Koshien Stadium in Nishinomiya. The two are commonly known as the Spring Koshien and the Summer Koshien, and playing at them is known to be a door to the professional level. Following Koshien is nationally popular, on par with professional baseball.

Page 52

Shio musubi are salted omusubi (onigiri).

Important Things. Important Matters.



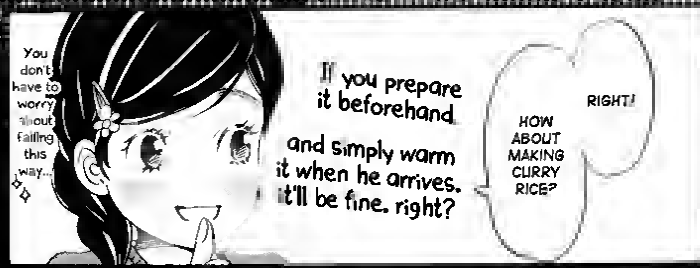
2

3月のライオン

L-LET'S EAT...?
UH-
UM...
AH,
Y-
YEAH...
Right now, Hina-chan looks...
very nervous
But she's completely stiff right now...
However you look at it, she's very lively
or outraged with a snap
depressed with a sigh,
She would become spirited with a CLAP,
Usually,
I think that's her unique personality trait.
Because...

UM...
HINA-CHAN?
Hey
Hey
Hey~ Hey~
Let's eat the curry?
is Takahashi-kun
Sitting before her eyes...
AH-
I HAVEN'T BEEN OVER FOR A LONG TIME, KAWAMOTO
SINCE GRADE TWO?
SFX: KUSHIN KUSHIN (COMB, COMB)
COME ON HINA-CHAN PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER
Ahh...
Ahhhh
SFX: KOTO KOTO (CUTTING NOISE)
IS THIS MUCH RICE OKAY?
Umm
Was curry really the right choice...?
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT, IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER TO PREPARE A MORE EXTRAVAGANT DINNER...
Curry rice is too ordinary~! He won't like it!!
SFX: GURU GURU (SWIRL SWIRL)
YOU DID WELL
IT'LL BE FINE
SFX: GU GU... (RUMBLE)
SFX: HENA HENA... (SLUMP...)

SFX: BOFFUUN (UU-BOOOND)
Kya
TAKAHASHI-KUN SENT A TEXT ASKING, "ARE YOU FREE ON SATURDAY?"
HE ASKED IF IT WAS OKAY FOR FOR US TO GO TO HINA-CHAN'S HOUSE
Somehow... I feel guilty... making her this nervous...
*HE WAS TRYING TO BE HELPFUL
NO WAY! WHY ISN'T ONEI-CHAN HERE ON SATURDAY EVENING!?
I ALREADY TOLD HIM "YOU'RE WELCOME TO DINNER"!!?
Re-chan Mama is hungry
I SUDDENLY GOT CALLED TO LOOK AFTER THE SHOP THIS SATURDAY
HOW TROUBLE-SOME
SFX: YOJI YOJI (WIBBLE WIBBLE)


You don't have to worry about failing this way...
If you prepare it beforehand and simply warm it when he arrives, it'll be fine, right?
HOW ABOUT MAKING CURRY RICE?
RIGHT!

Did you already forget what happened with the bento!?
YOU STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED YOUR LESSON, HAVE YOU!?
It has to be something more... more ex-. no, not extravagant. exquisite!!!
Eh—
That's too ordinary!
SFX: PATA PATA PATA (SLAP SLAP SLAP)

Honestly—
Then... for the DINNER that you want to make—
EH!!?
DINNER!!?
SFX: SHUPIN!! CLING!!
Ah, crap!
It's not like that! The "dinner" that I was talking about wasn't your "dinner"...
Hey! You just asked the same thing twice!!!
What is it what is it!? You just said DINNER right!? Right!? Heyy!
Yeah, senpai I also heard that myself!!!
SFX: KYA
SFX: GOOOOOO
SFX: KYAAAAA
Dinner? Dinner? Was it dinner, Onii-san!?
SFX: GINYA (CLANG-MEOW)
Seems like she lost
SFX: ゼーー
AS AN EXTRA, HOW ABOUT A KARAAGE TOPPING?
T-THEN,
Meow Meow Vim
SNACKS
SFX: GINYANYANYA (CLANG-MEOWMEOWMEOW)
BOTTLE NEKO KARIKARI (KITTY CRUNCH)
WONDERFULLY DELICIOUS FOOD
KARAAGE (DELICIOUS FOOD)
CURRY (DELICIOUS FOOD)
KARAAGE...?

Feels responsible
WONDERFULLY DELICIOUS FOOD
Looks like it's settled...
DELICIOUS FOOD
SUPER DELICIOUS FOOD
Phew
With onsen eggs too!?
Huff
HOW ABOUT PLACING AN ONSEN EGG ON TOP?
AND THEN,
How about that!?
As for Takahashi-kun...

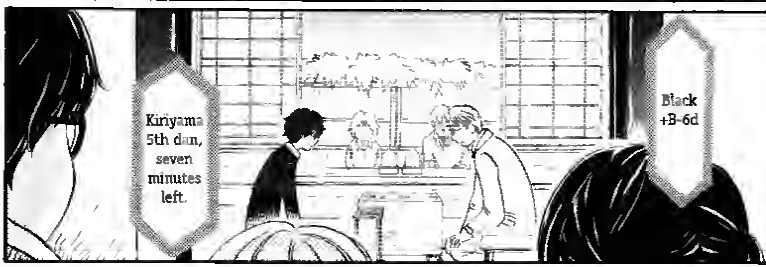
SFX "OKI-DOKI (DA DUMP-DA, UMI DA-DUMP)"
ITADAKI-MAASU—
Ah! There's an onsen egg too!
Itteadaakimatsu!!
Was influenced and became nervous
SFX TOROORI (GOOOEY)
SFX SAKU (CUT)
SFX KUMA (AAHHH)
SFX MOMU (STEAM)

SFX: SAKU SAKU (MUNCH MUNCH)
SFX: MOGU MOGU (CHEW CHEW)
SFX: PAKU PAKU (MUNCH MUNCH)
SFX: TSUN (SNIFF)
WHOA...
Wow. He looks so happy eating it...
SFX: MOGU MOGU (CHEW CHEW)
The karaage already tastes wonderful, and there's even an onsen egg... Isn't this too extravagant? It's like what one would eat at a restaurant!
Kawamoto's curry tastes so good!
There's seconds!
Really!?
Thanks, Onei-chan~
That's great~
SFX: TSUYA TSUYA (GLOWING)
OH YEAH.
I WANTED TO ASK KIRIYAMA-SAN SOMETHING
KAWAMOTO, MAY I BORROW YOUR VCR?
AH, SURE—

SFX: PA (CLICK)
Ha-what!?
Bo-Bodoro!☆
Ah! It's the guy who came the other day!
W-W-W-Why!?
Ehh!?
SFX: SHAKI (SHAKING)
SFX: KUNI (BLAND)
SFX: FUGHTO (HE DRESS)
MHK CUP
UM IT'S THIS ONE

EH? WHAT!? NIKAIDOU 4TH DAN CAME HERE?
Amazing!!
OH RIGHT. ISN'T HE YOUR BEST FRIEND, KIRIYAMA-SAN?☆
Oh!
Best Friend!? H-how did that happen?
Ah!
WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT NIKAIDOU SAID...
Ah! Hey! He's not talking about it again in this video, is he!?
A-Amazing!? He was on TV? Why didn't he tell us?
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU TWO ARE VERY CLOSE ☆
NIKAIDOU-SAN OFTEN SAID SO
During interviews.

White
B-3d+
Black
G-6f


Kiriyama
5th dan,
seven
minutes
left.
Black
+B-6d

SOCHI-
SOU-
SAMA
ja—
SHITA...
Um...

EH...
EHHHHHHH!?
...MOMO-CHAN, YOU'RE REALLY... HEAVY?
R-R-R-Rei-chan!?
Why are you on TV? Didn't you say that shogi was a club activity??
Don't try to run, Rei-chan!
AH, I SEE. OOPS.
Oh crap
KIRIYAMA-SAN WAS KEEPING IT A SECRET. HUH
OH?
WHAT, THE KID'S SECRET IS OUT?
AH, HELLO. SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
OH, YOU'RE TAKA-HASHI'S KID? YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH.
HOW ARE THE KUSO-JIJII AND KUSO-OYAJI?
YES, EVERYONE'S FINE. JUST LAST NIGHT, THEY WERE FIGHTING OVER SHOGI AGAIN.
OH, THEN, THEY SAID THAT I SHOULD GO AND ASK KIRIYAMA 5TH DAN.
EH? MHK CLIP? WHICH PART? I'VE BEEN WATCHING TOO.

NOW, DOES HE WANT TO "EAT" OR BE "EATEN"? I REALLY DON'T KNOW!
W-WAHH!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KIRIYAMAAA!?
Black +B-4b
SFX: PACHI (CLICK)
AH, IT'S HERE.

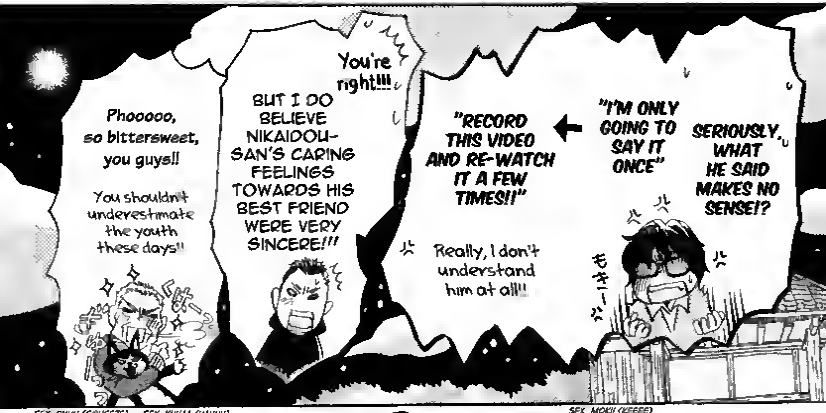
THOSE ARE VERY PASSIONATE EXPLANATIONS
King to the same position
Black G-5e
BOTH JII-CHAN AND OYAJI THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE.
NO.
JUST AS HE SAID, THAT WAS THE LOSING MOVE.
"I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS THE LOSING MOVE."
"WHY WOULD NIKAIDOU 4TH DAN SAY SUCH A THING?"
Seems like he lost anyway...

SFX: BOSO (MUMBLE)
I THOUGHT, "THEN LET'S SEE IF I MAKE A MISTAKE OR NOT."
...AND SOMEHOW,
HE DIDN'T BUDGE AT ALL, WAITING FOR ME TO MAKE A MISTAKE
I WAS TIGHTLY SURROUNDED BY THE OPPONENT
.....
BOTH JII-CHAN AND OYAJI COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT THAT WAS SUCH A BAD MOVE THEY ACTUALLY THOUGHT THAT IT WAS A MOVE FULL OF MANLY FIGHTING SPIRIT.

Stop trying to show off, Kiriyama!!!
The you at the 3rd dan competition was more careful and focused!!
You've been a bit off lately!
Nikaidou-san, you're blocking the board!
Don't focus only on attacking! You must defend well too!
If you really want to win, you must persist!
SFX: GU! (STEAL)
but they're still very different!!
"Decisiveness" and "rashness" are very similar,

SFX: BAN (BANG)
Ahh!
Nikaidou 4th dan!?
SFX: GYUU
SFX: WU (SOB)
You're too close to the camera!
Move back a bit, move back a bit!
You're too close!
You need to play the game of shogi in your own style!
Are you listening, Kiriyama!?
Nikaidou 4th dan, the game room is on the fourth floor!
It's impossible for him to hear you!
Cherish your own shogi more!!
Kiri-yama!!
Please calm down!
SFX: UN UN (NOD NOD)
REALLY
KID,
Hmph
YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD FRIEND THERE.
I...
I'M A LITTLE ENVI-OUS.
うん
うん

SFX: BASHI (SMACK)
SFX: BASHI (SMACK)
SFX: KARI (EXCITED)
Wow
He said he was your best friend!! Wahaha!
Oh, the vitality of youth! That little shit
Let me say this as your best friend!
AHH, HOW NICE!☆
Listen carefully. Kuri-yamaaa!
Listen carefully! I'm only going say it once.
—Ah, but it's very important, 'kay!?
AS EXPECTED OF BEST FRIENDS!
So you should record this, and re-watch it a few times!!!
SFX: GUGUGUGU (G-G-G-GUH)
SFX: ?
The kid's getting angry!!?
Ohhh
Pisses me off dammit!
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THAT HIGH AND MIGHTY LOOK?!!
GODDAMMIT, WHAT DO YOU KNOW!?
this is the reason you've hit a "plateau"!
Cherish your own shogi more!
Mmeow
Re-chan!?
SFX: DOKKAN (BAM)


Phoooo, so bittersweet, you guys!!
You shouldn't underestimate the youth these days!!
BUT I DO BELIEVE NIKAIDOU-SAN'S CARING FEELINGS TOWARDS HIS BEST FRIEND WERE VERY SINCERE!!!
You're right!!!!
"RECORD THIS VIDEO AND RE-WATCH IT A FEW TIMES!!"
Really, I don't understand him at all!!!
"I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY IT ONCE"
SERIOUSLY, WHAT HE SAID MAKES NO SENSE!?
SFX GYUU (SQUEEZE)
SFX KUHAA (HAHH!)
SFX MOKII (KEEEE)

Her words after that...

surprised me just a little bit.

Because, it was the first time

...someone ever said that to me.

Chapter 14 end

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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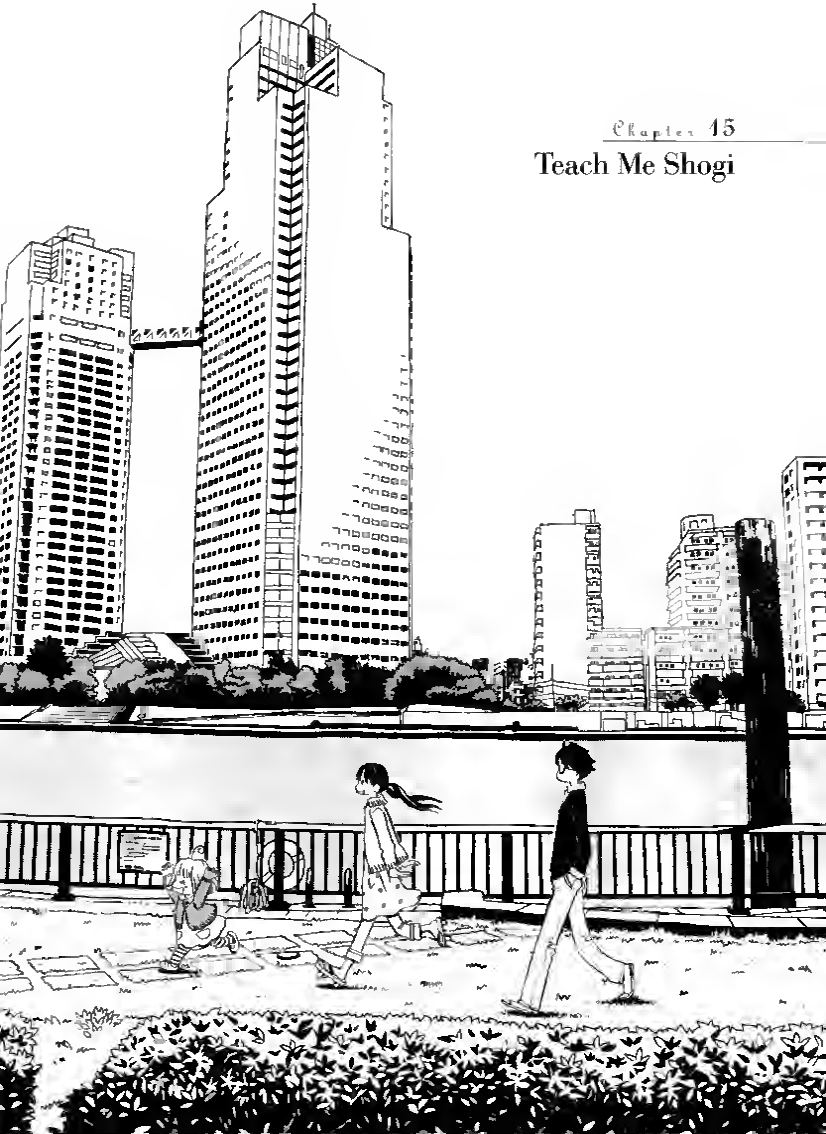
3月のライオン



Chapter 15

Teach Me Shogi

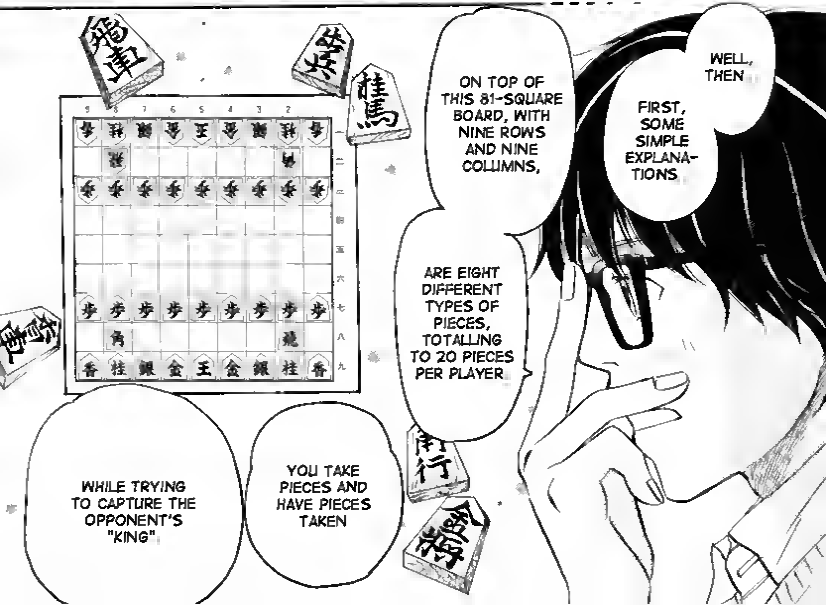
HM
GOTTA FIGURE OUT WHAT KIND OF BOARD TO BUY FIRST
I didn't know
TEACH ME
SHOGI?
That having someone
A VINYL MAT WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER THAN WOOD,
SINCE IT'S GOING TO BE PUT ON THE DINING TABLE
IN THE LIVING ROOM
who's interested in your world

was such a happy, stomach-fluttering feeling.
AND THE PIECES...
PLASTIC MIGHT BE GOOD, SINCE IT'S EASY TO HANDLE
AND MOMO-CHAN OFTEN SPILLS THINGS, LIKE MILK...
Ah!
Momo's milk!!
SFX: MISHA (SPLASH)
SFX: PAWN (SWEEP)
SFX: NYA-O
The characters won't wear away either so they'll be easy to read.

AH! I SHOULD BUY AN INSTRUCTION MANUAL TO MAKE IT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND.
HMM... WHICH ONE'S BETTER...
FOR A BEGINNER, TANIYAMA-SENSEI AND SENZAKI-SENSEI'S BOOKS WOULD BE BEST.
NI...
NIKAIDOU!?
AW...
THEY'RE SOLD OUT
WHAT A PITY
Kya-
SFX: PAWN (SCRATCH)

Won't you let me help you? If you want only if you really want me to!! I really want to help you!
Who are you planning to teach?
...So,
SFX: KI-KIRI (GRABBLE SPARKLE)
Um This one
please
You care about spreading the love of shogi too!☆
I'm so happy, Kiriyama!
Passion!
SFX: FUWA FUWA (FUWA-FUWA SPARKLE), SONRA SONRA (SPIN SPIN)
SFX: SU (CLENCH)
SFX: SU (CLENCH)
Defeated by his forcefulness, enthusiasm and various other factors.
YES! THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE!☆
Please teach me well!
WELL THEN...
Be well!
Dokido
Kya
どーん
SFX: DON (VIOLA)

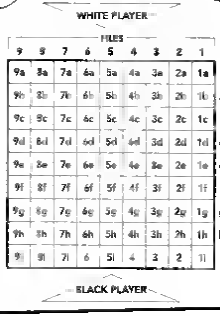
I HOPE IT'LL BE OKAY.
REMEMBERING EVERYTHING
NO PROBLEM! ☆
EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS DIFFICULT,
IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE SIMPLE ONCE YOU BEGIN.
IF HINA-CHAN DOES FEEL THAT IT'S DIFFICULT, IT WOULDN'T BE YOUR FAULT, BUT THE COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ONE TEACHING YOU☆
...WITH THAT SAID,
OK!☆ Please lead the way, Kiriyama-sensei!♡
Eh!? It's my turn after an introduction like that!?
Yessuuu
SFX: KUN KUN (SNIFF SNIFF)
SFX: NIKKORI (GRIN)
SFX: EIJAN (SIGH)


WELL, THEN
FIRST, SOME SIMPLE EXPLANATIONS
ON TOP OF THIS 81-SQUARE BOARD, WITH NINE ROWS AND NINE COLUMNS,
ARE EIGHT DIFFERENT TYPES OF PIECES, TOTALLING TO 20 PIECES PER PLAYER.
YOU TAKE PIECES AND HAVE PIECES TAKEN
WHILE TRYING TO CAPTURE THE OPPONENT'S "KING".

SO, EVERY SQUARE HAS A UNIQUE NAME...

THE COLUMNS ARE USUALLY NOTATED WITH NUMBERS AND THE ROWS WITH LOWERCASE LETTERS.

THE COLUMNS ARE CALLED "FILES" AND THE ROWS ARE CALLED "RANKS".


WHITE PLAYER
FILES
9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
9a 8a 7a 6a 5a 4a 3a 2a 1a a
9b 8b 7b 6b 5b 4b 3b 2b 1b b
9c 8c 7c 6c 5c 4c 3c 2c 1c c
9d 8d 7d 6d 5d 4d 3d 2d 1d d
9e 8e 7e 6e 5e 4e 3e 2e 1e e
9f 8f 7f 6f 5f 4f 3f 2f 1f f
9g 8g 7g 6g 5g 4g 3g 2g 1g g
9h 8h 7h 6h 5h 4h 3h 2h 1h h
9i 8i 7i 6i 5i 4i 3i 2i 1i i
RANKS
BLACK PLAYER

EACH OF THE EIGHT PIECES HAVE DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS AND DIFFERING RANGES OF MOVEMENT.

THE PERSON WHO GOES FIRST IS "BLACK". THE PERSON WHO FOLLOWS IS "WHITE".

EACH PLAYER TAKES ONE TURN AT A TIME.

A PIECE CANNOT ADVANCE TO A SQUARE THAT'S OCCUPIED BY AN ALLY.

UM...

SO, NEXT IS HOW TO MOVE EACH PIECE...

JUST A SECOND, KIRIYAMA!

SFX: GUI COSMO

RIGID!! YOU'RE TOO RIGID, KIRIYAMA!! LOOK AT HINA-KUN!

SHE'S ALREADY GOT THE "YUP... IT IS PRETTY DIFFICULT..." LOOK ON HER FACE!

IF YOU GO ON LIKE THAT, YOU'LL MAKE HER NERVOUS, AND IT'LL NEVER GO INTO HER HEAD!

WOULDN'T YOU BE WASTING YOUR TIME THEN? HER FIRST IMPRESSION MUST BE THAT SHOGI IS EASY TO GRASP...

THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?

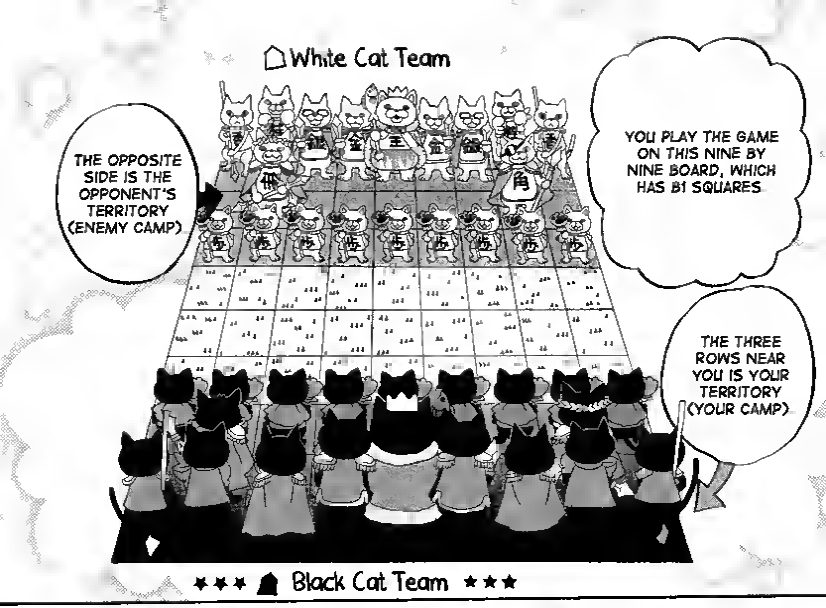
The person who goes first is "Black" and the person who follows is "White"

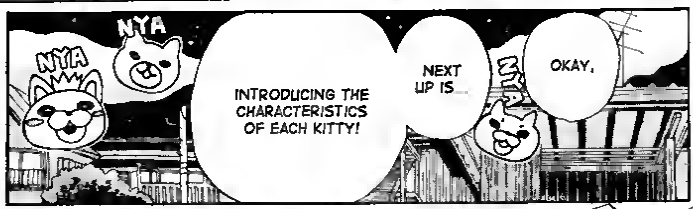
Umm. umm...

Hey~ Hey~ You know Hina-chan, I want to eat yogurt

SFX: KAKI KAKI (SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE)

SFX: PIKARIN (SPARKLE)
Introduction to Shogi Picture Book
Let's look at this picture book
All right!
Hina-kun, Momo-kun, I'll do the explanations next!
SFX: PANYAAAN (SHIMMERRR)
HERE! ☆
香 桂 銀 金 王 金 銀 桂 香
飛 角
歩 歩 歩 歩 歩 歩 歩 歩 歩
YOU CAPTURE THE OPPONENT'S "KING",
SHOGI IS LIKE THIS.
USING EIGHT DIFFERENT TYPES OF PIECES☆
There's a king too!?
Ahh! kitties!
So many kitties!!
CAT MEMBER


White Cat Team
THE OPPOSITE SIDE IS THE OPPONENT'S TERRITORY (ENEMY CAMP)
YOU PLAY THE GAME ON THIS NINE BY NINE BOARD, WHICH HAS 81 SQUARES
THE THREE ROWS NEAR YOU IS YOUR TERRITORY (YOUR CAMP)
Black Cat Team

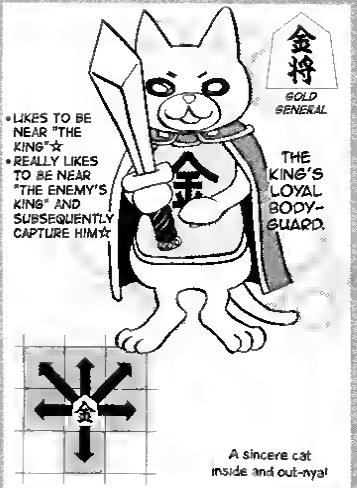

NYA
NYA
INTRODUCING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH KITTY!
NEXT UP IS...
OKAY,

What is this feeling?
Nikaidou... You are... amazing...
(※ANSWER ⇔ ALIENATION)
GOOD REPLY!!
YES!!
Please do!!!
Okay!!

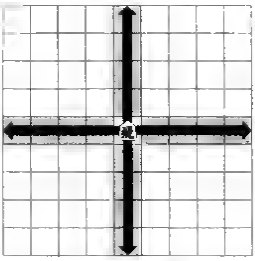
Hop, jump kangaroo punch!!
桂馬
KNIGHT
桂
ONLY I CAN JUMP OVER EVERYONE'S HEADS-NYA!☆
CAN HOP AND SPRING BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT☆
桂

I'm not very useful "
香車
LANCE
香
I WILL GO STRAIGHT AHEAD ANYWHERE! I CANNOT TURN BACK-NYA!!
MR. SINGLE-MINDED WHO CHARGES "STRAIGHT" AHEAD WHEREVER HE GOES☆
香

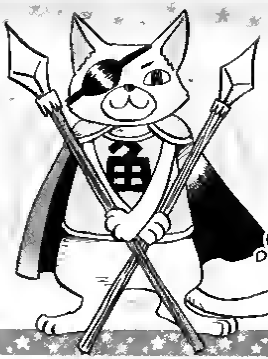
Come here and feel the power of my furry paw punch-nya!
歩兵
PAWN
"I MAY BE THE WEAKEST, BUT I'M AN IMPORTANT PIECE THAT YOU CAN'T WIN WITHOUT-NYA!!"
MR. EAGER BEAVER WHO MOVES ONE STEP AT A TIME-NYA!!
歩
歩


金将
GOLD GENERAL
• LIKES TO BE NEAR "THE KING"☆
• REALLY LIKES TO BE NEAR "THE ENEMY'S KING" AND SUBSEQUENTLY CAPTURE HIM☆
THE KING'S LOYAL BODY-GUARD.
金
金
A sincere cat inside and out-nya!

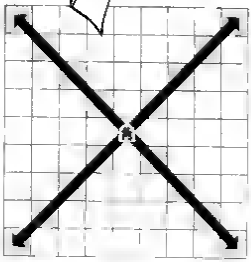
銀将
SILVER GENERAL
• LEADER OF COOL ATTACKS!!
• NIMBLE EXCELLENCE IN BOTH OFFENCE AND DEFENCE-NYA!
MR. COOL GUY WHO'S A BIT CYNICAL
銀
銀
However... my back and sides are full of openings-nya!

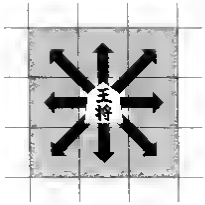


- CAN FLY FREELY HORIZONTALLY AND VERTICALLY-NYA!!
- ALL CATS, WHETHER THEY'RE YOUNG OR OLD, MALE OR FEMALE, LOVE HIM-NYA!!



- THE SELF-SACRIFICING LONELY GUY☆
- CAN HAVE WEAK SPOTS IN DEFENCE WHILE BUSY ATTACKING, SO BE CAREFUL!





- THE GAME WILL END IF I'M CAPTURED-NYA!
- SO, GIVE ME SOME LOVE-NYA!

王将
KING
"WITHOUT ME, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS!! SO, DON'T LEAVE ME BY MYSELF-NYA!!"
SFX: JUN (SWISH)
HE'S QUITE THE FIGHTER WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT
NOT ONLY THAT,
YUP!☆ IT'S BECAUSE HE'S THE KING!
ONLY THE KING CAN MOVE IN ANY DIRECTION?
Amazing!!

SFX: HUFF HUFF CHAA HAA
ENEMY TERRITORY
ONE MORE STEP AND THEN I'LL BE IN ENEMY TERRITORY-NYA!
SFX: YORO YORO (WADDLE WADDLE)
I DID IT!! I'VE ENTERED ENEMY TERRITORY-NYA!
SFX: PETASHI (TAP)
THE AMAZING THING ABOUT THE KITTIES IN THIS SHOGI LAND IS THAT...
YEP! IN ADDI-TION.
I SEEE. THE PIECES HAVE SO MANY DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES.
THEY WILL...
WHEN THEY'VE REACHED ENEMY TERRITORY AFTER INCHING FORWARDS
TRANSFORM!!!
SFX: NYAA! (NYAAA)
I've been promoted-nya!!
Please take this-nya!
Congratu-lations-nya!
SFX: MIAU (YAAY)
歩 ⇨ と (GAINS THE SAME POWERS AS THE GOLD GENERAL!!!)
PAWN PROMOTED PAWN
Coool!
Right?
SFX: CHIRA.... (GLANCE....)
WHO ON EARTH WROTE IT?
IS REALLY EASY TO UNDERSTAND...
NIKAIDOU, THAT JERK...
BUT, THIS BOOK...
HAHAHAHA!
Kyu! Kyu!

What is this!?
Introduction to Sh
Picture Book
Written and Illustrated by
Nikaidou Haruhiko
EH?
THERE'S NO PUBLISHER LISTED, NOR IS THERE A BARCODE
AND THE PRICE ISN'T LISTED...
BUT IT'S AWFULLY EXTRAVAGANT...??

ACTUALLY, I'VE LOVED DRAWING SINCE I WAS A KID.
WELL...
I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE GREAT IF MY HOBBY COULD HELP SPREAD THE LOVE OF SHOGI.
Moved to tears
I'm so touched!
My drawings are very easy to understand, right...
Bocchama, this was done magnificently.

Yup!
I drew it!
Ni-Ni-Ni-Ni-Ni-Ni...
Nikaidou... This... Could it be...?
ぱあっ
You noticed?
I want to draw just like you do!
Amazing, really!? That's cool!!
Eh!?
MAGIC?
AMAZING
Wah

Simple!?
Casebound
Gold Leaf
UV Processing
Cloth Backing
Ribbon
Endpapers
Endsheets
Tailband
Embossing
S... S-S-S...
Ridiculously extravagant!!
Amazing amaazing!!
Phew
I HAD IT PRESENTED AS A GIFT TO RELATIVES AT THE NIKAIDOU FAMILY'S NEW YEAR'S PARTY.
AND SINCE I HAD DRAWN IT, I ASKED THE LETTERPRESS PEOPLE TO PUT IT TOGETHER IN A SIMPLE MANNER.

AHH-
IT'S GREAT THAT THE TWO OF THEM WERE SO INTERESTED!
WELL,
THE BEST WAY IS TO EASE INTO THE FINER DETAILS GRADUALLY AS THEY PLAY.
FOR THE FIRST DAY, THIS WAS GOOD PROGRESS☆
WE'VE DONE WELL.
YUP.
LIKE THIS, SLOWLY BUT SURELY...
WE'LL SEE A FUTURE EMERGE
SFX: GU (GLENOH)

YOUR HOUSE, OF COURSE
WHERE?
WHERE DO YOU PLAN TO FOLLOW ME UNTIL?
THE TRAIN STATION ISN'T THIS WAY...?
UM...
I'M JUST STAYING AT MY BEST FRIEND'S HOUSE NO RESERVATIONS THERE!
HAHAHA IT'LL BE FINE
SFX: KIN (SHARP)
HUH?
O-OF COURSE? ...NOT...
NOT, RIGHT?
I am worrying about it!
Wait, you should be the one worrying about it!
Hahaha☆ Don't worry about it.
Yes there are!! Reservations!!
Besides, you and I are not best friends!

Chapter 15 end

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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3月のライオン

NOTES from the translators

Page 80

As in our previous chapters, the original Japanese text on this page refers to the Japanese system of shogi notation, but we have changed to the Western system of shogi notation because the Japanese sytem calls for Chinese numerals. Although the board on page 79 has been left as is, the shogi board on page 80 has been changed to the Wesetern system because it is significant to this chapter's purpose of teaching the reader shogi.

Page 83

The Silver General is attributed with being cynical because the Japanese writting for "cynical" could also be taken literally to mean "slanted" or "diagonal", which is how the Silver General moves.

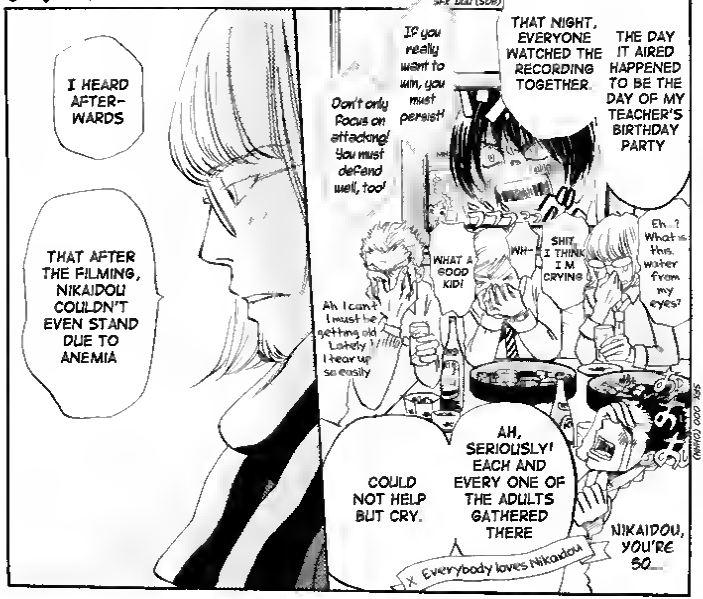
Chapter 16

Image

TH-
THAT BASTARD!
SFX: BOPUN (POOF)
DAMN IT!
WHAT DO I DO NOW?!
DAMN
ぎゅむ――っっっ
SFX: GYUMU (SQUEEZE)

Sorry we're late.
Now, if you please...
Despite my objections,
he marched right in
LAURL MATSUTAKAYA DEPARTMENT STORE
※
LAST CHAPTER CONTINUED
I couldn't get rid of him, so he forced his way in.
KIRIYAMA-SAMA, HARUNOBU-SAMA.
WELCOME BACK.
HM
And in a flash,
his luggage followed
LET'S PUT THIS ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE CLOSET
THIS IS DINNER AND BREAKFAST FOR THE TWO OF YOU
わわっ!?
SFX: AWA AWAWAH
YOU SEE,
I'D NOTICED THAT KIRIYAMA'S HOME DIDN'T HAVE MANY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.
I THOUGHT THIS WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY, SO I GOT A FEW THINGS ALONG THE WAY
IF YOU FOLD THIS BED, YOU CAN USE IT AS A SOFA! IT'S QUITE EXCEPTIONAL
YOU DEFINITELY NEED TO TRY IT OUT!
BUT THINK OF IT AS MY HOUSEWARMING GIFT TO YOU!☆

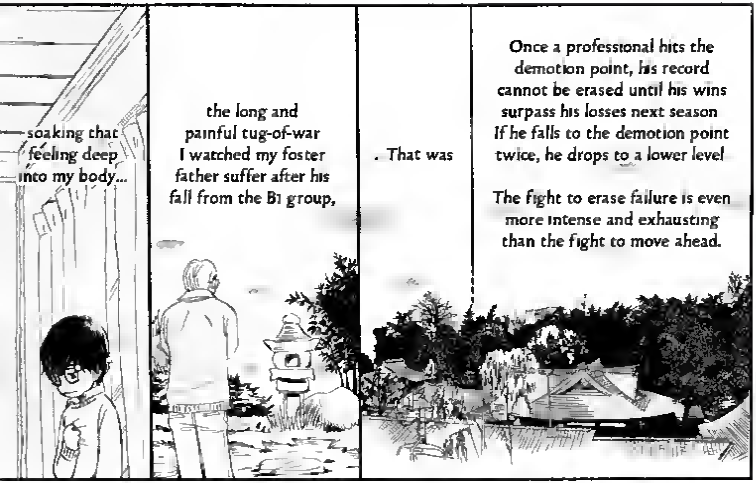
SFX: HA (SIGH)
WHY ARE YOU SIGHING?
将棋会館
OH? YOU'RE NOT WITH NIKAIDOU TODAY?
ISSA-SAN
SMITH-SAN
DOESN'T EVEN HAVE THE ENERGY TO DENY IT ANYMORE.
Friendship really is a wonderful thing!
Did you take those words to heart, Kiriyama-kyuun?
All those quote-worthy lines!
OR SHOULD I SAY, NIKAIDOU'S PASSIONATE EXPLANA-TIONS!
OH RIGHT! I WATCHED YOUR MHK CUP MATCH
Oh this is bad Just thinking about it tugs at my heart!
SFX: GUSU (SNIFFLE)
SFX: GU (TEAR)
SFX: GU (CLENCH)


I HEARD AFTER-WARDS
THAT AFTER THE FILMING, NIKAIDOU COULDN'T EVEN STAND DUE TO ANEMIA
SFX: UUU (SOB)
If you really want to win, you must persist!
Don't only focus on attacking! You must defend well, too!
THAT NIGHT, EVERYONE WATCHED THE RECORDING TOGETHER.
THE DAY IT AIRED HAPPENED TO BE THE DAY OF MY TEACHER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY
WHAT A GOOD KID!
WH-
SHIT, I THINK I'M CRYING
Eh...? What is this water from my eyes?
Ah, I can't. I must be getting old. Lately I tear up so easily
COULD NOT HELP BUT CRY.
AH, SERIOUSLY! EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE ADULTS GATHERED THERE
NIKAIDOU, YOU'RE SO...
Everybody loves Nikaidou
SFX: OOO (WAIL)

NIKAI-DOU?
EH?

TRYING VERY HARD
HE WAS
IT SEEMED LIKE HE HAD USED UP ALL OF HIS ENERGY.

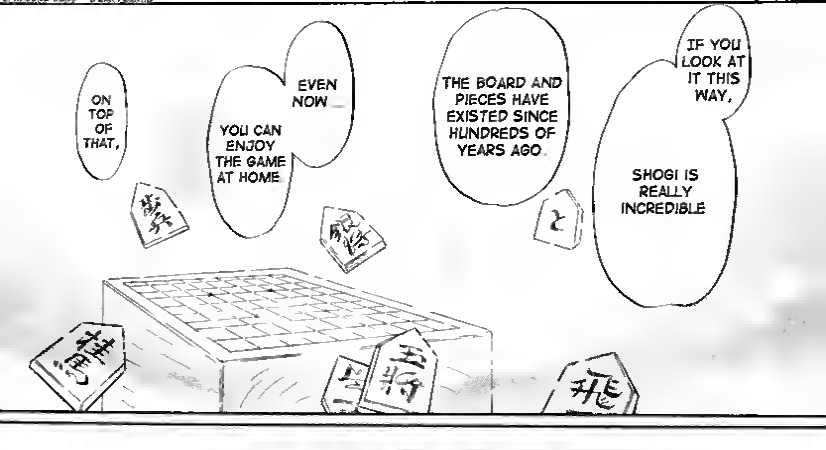
NIKAIDOU HAS WON ALL SIX MATCHES
HE'S REALLY FOCUSED
IT'S LIKELY HE'LL GET A HIGHER RANK THIS SEASON
HIS HEAD IS PROBABLY FILLED WITH THOUGHTS OF FACING YOU IN CI
SFX: HISHOU HASHIMA (SIGH AUD)
I always feel like his thoughts never fully reach your heart! It's so frustrating!!!
Do you knoww? Seriously!!!
SO HARD
SO HARD, YOU KNOW...
Ahhh seriously!
SFX: HAA (SIGH)
Three wins and three losses
I'll gradually slip off the edge,
and hit the demotion point
If I don't hold my ground,
COME ON, KIRIYAMA
DON'T LET NIKAIDOU DOWN

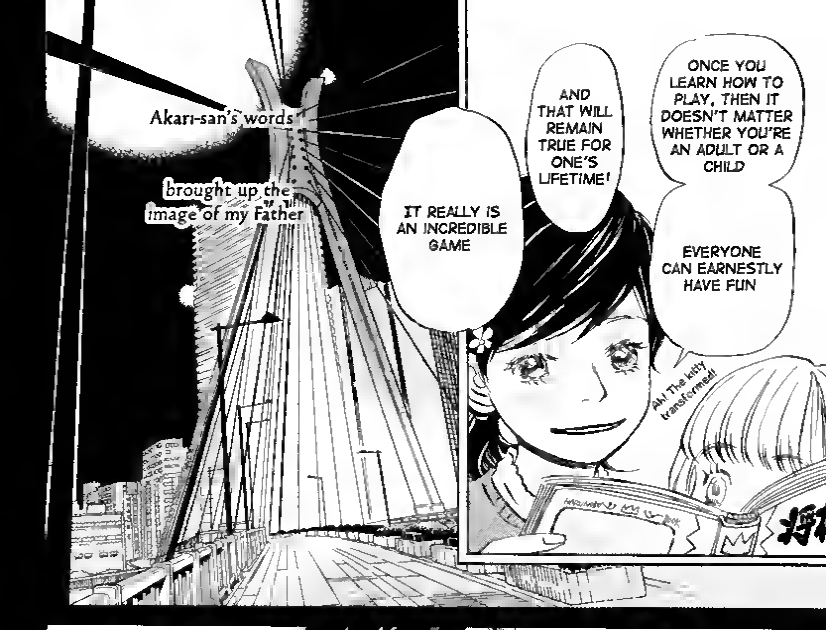

soaking that feeling deep into my body...
the long and painful tug-of-war I watched my foster father suffer after his fall from the B1 group,
. That was
Once a professional hits the demotion point, his record cannot be erased until his wins surpass his losses next season If he falls to the demotion point twice, he drops to a lower level
The fight to erase failure is even more intense and exhausting than the fight to move ahead.

I feel lousy inside when I'm around him
Is it because he never doubts himself?
Always persisting, always moving forward and forward, that passion...
Just where does Nikaidou get his energy from?
His body isn't strong in any way.
CHERISH YOUR OWN SHOE! MORE, WILL YOU?
CHERISH IT MORE!

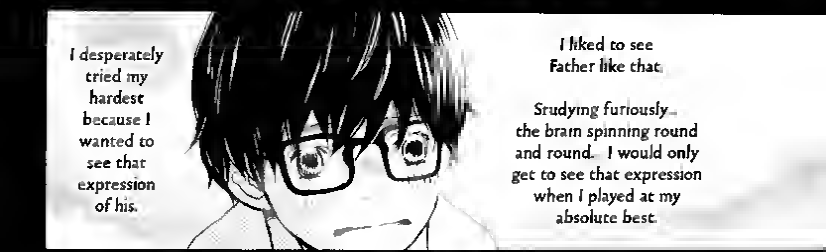
It's making me hate myself
more and more...
MOMO-CHAN, NO!
THE CAT IS IN PAIN!!
LOOKS LIKE HINA AND MOMO HAD FUN
DRAWN VERY WELL
AT ANY RATE, IT'S REALLY
I'm gonna get you with a meatball punch, nya!
Protection of shoji Picture book
ギャー
SFX: シャ (SHA)
SFX: ギャー(GYAA-NYAA)

SFX: SURUSURU SURUSURU (PURRR PURRR)
HE MUST BE LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING ABLE TO PLAY SHOGI WITH HIS GRAND-DAUGHTERS.
I MEAN,
AAH, HOW NICE—
WHERE ELSE CAN YOU FIND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR TWO PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYERS TO PERSONALLY TEACH YOU?
LOOKING AT IT, OJII-CHAN IS LIKE,
WE PUT COPIES OF THE PICTURE BOOK ON THE FRIDGE SO THEY COULD REMEMBER WHAT THEY LEARNED
Aah what if they become incredibly strong?
AAH, I REFUSE TO LOSE
Stupid Jay☆
...Speaking of which, I wish they would teach me too. Really... how nice-
SFX: BU BU (MUTTER MUTTER)


SFX: GORO GORO (PURR PURR...)
ON TOP OF THAT,
EVEN NOW...
YOU CAN ENJOY THE GAME AT HOME
THE BOARD AND PIECES HAVE EXISTED SINCE HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO.
IF YOU LOOK AT IT THIS WAY,
SHOGI IS REALLY INCREDIBLE


Akari-san's words
brought up the image of my Father
IT REALLY IS AN INCREDIBLE GAME
AND THAT WILL REMAIN TRUE FOR ONE'S LIFETIME!
ONCE YOU LEARN HOW TO PLAY, THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU'RE AN ADULT OR A CHILD
EVERYONE CAN EARNESTLY HAVE FUN
Ah! The kids transformed!

Father's habits that naturally emerge in my dreams..
His body would rock back and forth gently, left hand cupping his cheek, with his arms crossed


I desperately tried my hardest because I wanted to see that expression of his.
I liked to see Father like that.
Srudying furiously... the brain spinning round and round. I would only get to see that expression when I played at my absolute best.

Father...
If he saw the me right now, what would he say?
Never hiding his true face...
The father who was kind, always being considerate of [illegible] him, always with a smile...
Why...
did I forget...
Am I not...
currently standing in.....

the shogi world that Father yearned for...?
How...

Such an important thing...
How could I
forget about this?

.....
KYOKO-SAN.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
REI.
Chapter 16 end

March comes in like a lion

Chika Umino

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3月のライオン

Chapter 17

Distant Thunder (PART 1)

3月のライオン

Mach comes in like a lion
Chapter 66

When I was small, I once saw lightning in broad daylight.

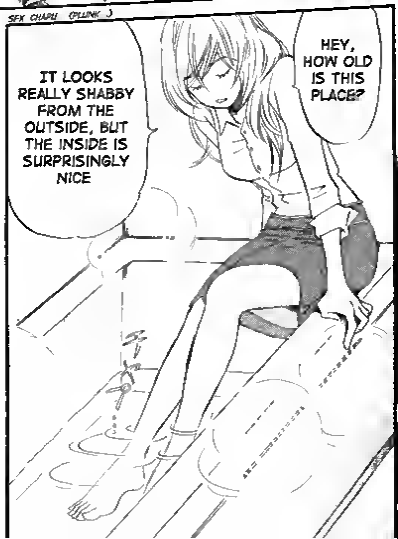
A fleeting flash of light
tumbled like whirling silver
across the deep blue sky.
My breath was taken away
by that short-lived moment
even though that radiance

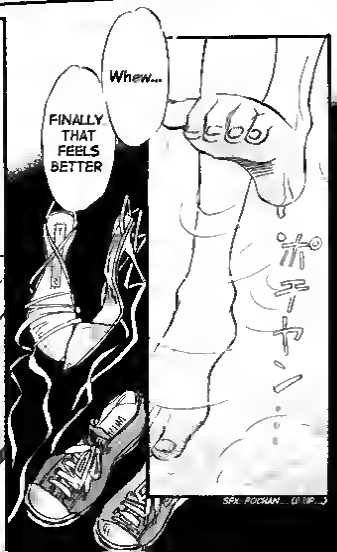
was followed by

heavy and violent rain.

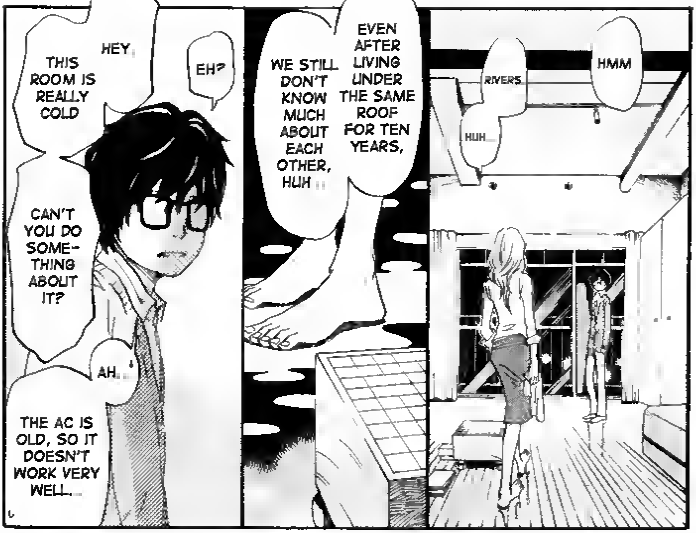
WHY?
DON'T BE SILLY.
AN OLDER SISTER, WORRIED ABOUT HER LITTLE BROTHER WHO JUST STARTED LIVING ON HIS OWN, COMES TO SEE HIM.
IS THAT SO UNUSUAL?
I'LL WALK YOU TO THE STATION IT'S VERY LATE
WHAT? WON'T YOU LET ME IN? I DID COME ALL THE WAY HERE
WHY NOT?
BE-CAUSE IT'S REALLY MESSY
THAT'S FINE LEMME SEE.
THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH TO SEE.
PFT YOU'RE A BAD LIAR, YOU IDIOT
IF THERE "ISN'T MUCH", HOW CAN IT BE "REALLY MESSY"?
NO, YOU CAN'T. THE LAST TRAIN WILL LEAVE SOON

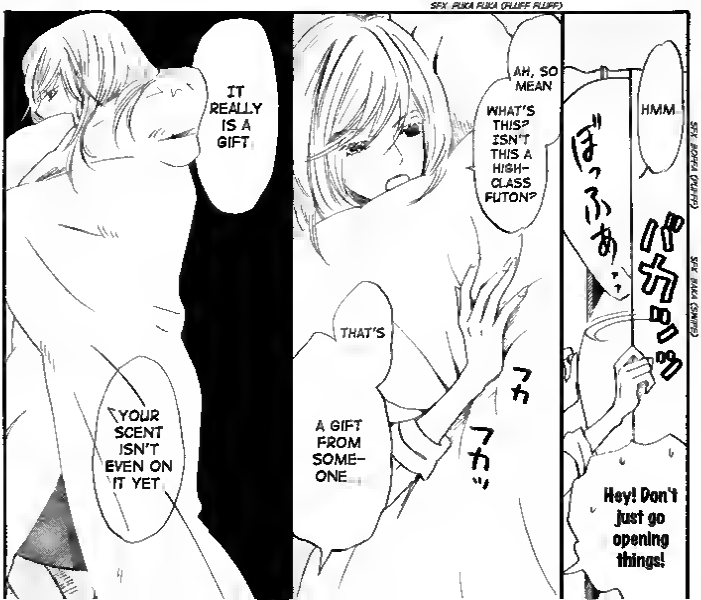
SFX: SA (SAH)
MY FEET ARE COLD!
I WANT TO USE THE WASHROOM!
REALLY,
DO I HAVE TO SPELL EVERYTHING OUT, YOU IDIOT?


SFX: CHAPU (SPLUNK)
HEY, HOW OLD IS THIS PLACE?
IT LOOKS REALLY SHABBY FROM THE OUTSIDE, BUT THE INSIDE IS SURPRISINGLY NICE


Whew...
FINALLY THAT FEELS BETTER
SFX: POCHAN... (SPLOP...)

HEY.
WHY DID YOU MOVE TO THIS PART OF TOWN?
THANKS
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY TIES TO THIS PLACE, RIGHT?
Heeey, Reee. Get me a towel.
HMM, AREN'T YOU LUCKY—
THE BUILDING IS 26 YEARS OLD.
BUT THE LANDLORD RENOVATED IT RECENTLY.
SFX: ZAA (RUSTLE)
RIVER?
WHAT...
YOU HAVE A THING FOR RIVERS?
...AND I THOUGHT THAT THE RIVER HERE WAS VERY WIDE AND BEAUTIFUL.
I CAME HERE ONCE BEFORE BECAUSE OF WORK


HEY
THIS ROOM IS REALLY COLD
EH?
CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
AH...
THE AC IS OLD, SO IT DOESN'T WORK VERY WELL...
EVEN AFTER LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF FOR TEN YEARS,
WE STILL DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT EACH OTHER, HUH
RIVERS
HUH...
HMM


SFX: FUKA FUKA (FLUFF FLUFF)
IT REALLY IS A GIFT
YOUR SCENT ISN'T EVEN ON IT YET
THAT'S
A GIFT FROM SOMEONE
フカ
フカ
AH, SO MEAN
WHAT'S THIS? ISN'T THIS A HIGH-CLASS FUTON?
HMM
ぼっふぁ
ぴちぴち
SFX: RIVERS CHUCKLING
Hey! Don't just go opening things!

WOW, THE VIEW'S NICE.
IS THIS REALLY THE 6TH FLOOR?
IT FEELS SO HIGH IS IT BECAUSE THE RIVER IS LOW?
I SEE.
SO YOU LIVE HERE.
FATHER'S BEEN FEELING DOWN, YOU KNOW.
YOU REALLY ARE HEAD-STRONG
LOOKING AND MAKING DECISIONS BY YOURSELF.
HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE?
WHO'S YOUR GUARAN-TOR?
THE HEAD OF THE JINSUI TEMPLE...
HM, OF COURSE.
THAT PERSON IS SO SOFT ON YOU.

KYO-KO-SAN
THE LAST TRAIN
WHY DON'T YOU COME HOME?
TO THAT HOUSE
IT WOULD MAKE FATHER HAPPY
HEY LEND ME A SHIRT
I'M SLEEPY
DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT WITH FATHER...?
NO
OR RATHER, WE HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN EACH OTHER
I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK AT ALL LATELY
.....
ARE YOU STILL WITH THAT GUY?
.....
WHAT A RELIEF

THERE'S NO SCAR...
GOTOU GOT OUT OF HAND...

THAT MAN IS BAD FOR YOU.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
HE DOESN'T RAISE HIS HAND AT YOU?
HIM? AT ME?
NO WAY
BUT EVEN IF HE DID...
DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD JUST LET HIM HIT ME?

I'D STAB HIM
IN HIS SLEEP.
I'D NEVER LET HIM WAKE UP AGAIN
.....
YOU'D GO THAT FAR?
YEAH.
BECAUSE I LOVE HIM.

I LOVE HIM A LOT.
SFX: FI (FEEL)
SFX: RENREN (FEE-REE-REE-REE)
SFX: BA (CLACK)
Un
Yaawn
DON'T YOU HAVE A MATCH TODAY? A RANKING MATCH?
THAT'S NOT GOOD.
COULDN'T SLEEP?
.....

WHO'S YOUR OPPONENT AGAIN?
RIGHT, RIGHT, MATSUNAGA-SAN.
HOW OLD IS HE NOW? 64 65?
PRETTY HARD-WORKING.
WOULDN'T SWITCH TO THE FREE CLASS EVEN AFTER HE FELL TO C1 HOLDING ON FOR DEAR LIFE A WORKAHOLIC, I GUESS?
I'VE SEEN HIM PLAY WITH FATHER
THAT STUBBORN BRAND OF SHOGI,
IT WAS SO LAME
HE WOULDN'T GIVE UP EVEN WHEN HE WAS DEMOTED.
HE MUST REALLY LOVE SHOGI...
UNLIKE YOU.

AHH, THAT'S RIGHT
IF MATSUNAGA-SAN CONTINUES TO FALL FROM CI, HE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO RETIRE.
ISN'T IT DEPRESSING?
IT'S LIKE TAKING AN OLD DOG FOR A WALK WITH A TIGHT LEASH AROUND ITS NECK.
NOBODY WANTS TO BE THE ONE TO DO THAT.
I'M A LITTLE WORRIED.
I WONDER WOULD YOU END UP PURPOSELY LOSING TO HIM AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

Her hair as she walked out the door

caught the sunlight for just an instant. — And then,

ultimately, that light would bring on a storm.

Chapter 17 end

March comes in like a lion

Chika Umino

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3月のライオン

Chapter 18

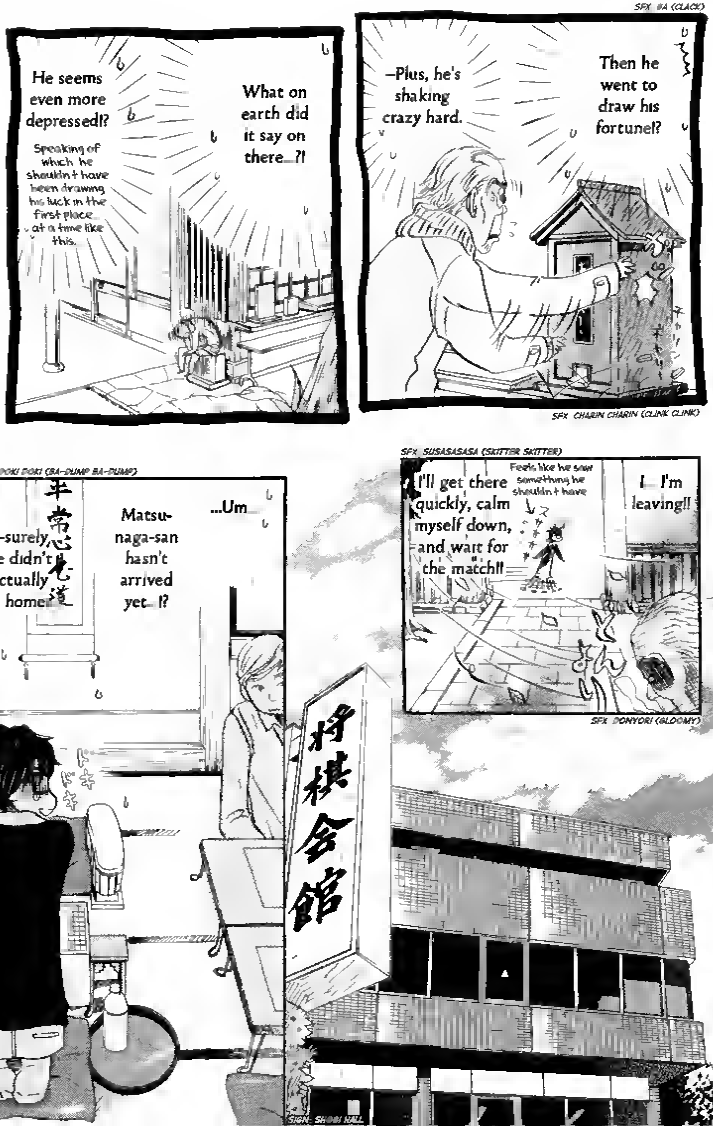
Distant Thunder (PART 2)

IT'S LIKE TAKING AN OLD DOG FOR A WALK WITH A TIGHT LEASH AROUND ITS NECK
...ISN'T IT DEPRESSING?
SFX: TOTON (CLACLACK)
SFX: TATAN (CLACLACK)
YOU KNOW
BECAUSE YOU'RE SO KIND
SFX: TOTON (CLACLACK)
SFX: TOTON TOTON (CLACLACK CLACLACK)
SFX: TATAN (CLACLACK)
I WONDER... WOULD YOU END UP PURPOSELY LOSING TO HIM AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
I'M A LITTLE WORRIED

—I've seen him many times in the shogi hall
He has a short stature and a brisk walk
Forty years of experience as a shogi player
At the height of his career, he was in the B1 group for one term
せんだがや
SENDAGAYA
Matsunaga Shouichi, 7th Dan Age 65
Originally from Fukushima Prefecture
Became a professional shogi player at 25
Someone more than twice my age who has lived and died repeatedly on this 81-square board...
I just wanted to hear how "Forty years..." sounded like, but it's almost impossible to imagine
THIS SCENERY...
FOR FORTY YEARS

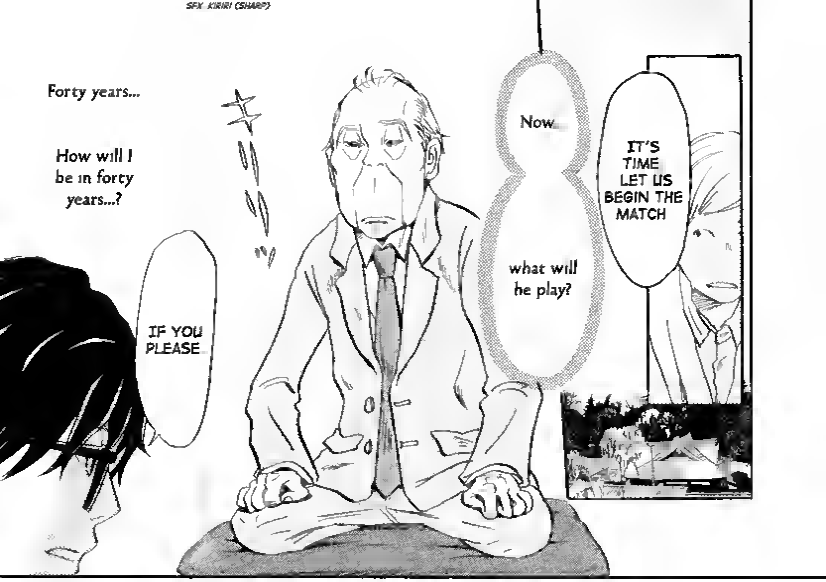
Forty years... an overwhelming length of time...
What could he be feeling right now?
—I can't even imagine...
IF MATSUNAGA-SAN FELL EVEN FROM C2, HE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO RETIRE...
AH.
.....
MATSU-NAGA-SAN...

SFX: PAAN PAAN (CLAP CLAP)
SFX: HAAAA (SIIIIGH)
THESE ARE HIS FEELINGS?!
I really couldn't have imagined it.
Eeh
That is all
God, I really just... I just want to give up and go home.
Ah, but please still bless me with victory.
NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO.
はあああ
SFX: GA-N (SHO-CK)


SFX: IIA (CLACK)
He seems even more depressed!?
Speaking of which, he shouldn't have been drawing his luck in the first place... at a time like this.
What on earth did it say on there...?!
–Plus, he's shaking crazy hard.
Then he went to draw his fortune!?
SFX: CHARIN CHARIN (CLINK CLINK)
SFX: DOKI DOKI (BA-DUMP BA-DUMP)
半常心道
S-surely, he didn't actually go home!?
Matsunaga-san hasn't arrived yet...!?
...Um...
将棋会館
SIGN: SHOGI HALL
SFX: SUSASASASA (SKITTER SKITTER)
I'll get there quickly, calm myself down, and wait for the match!!
Feels like he saw something he shouldn't have
I... I'm leaving!!
SFX: DONYORI (GLOOMY)

He... stopped?
.....
Huh?
ピタ
SFX: PITA (STOP)
ス
He came!
What a relief.
SFX: SU... (SH...)

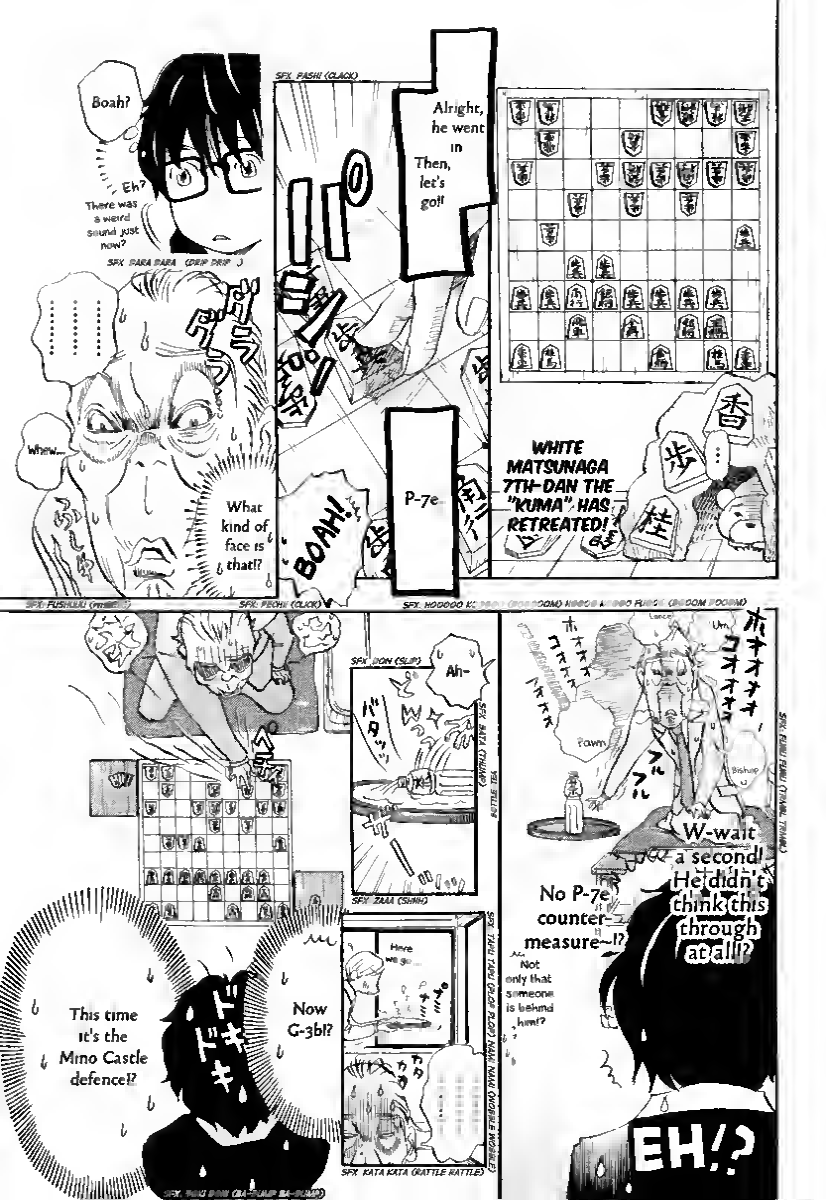
Psycho-logical warfare? Is this some type of battle tactic of the veteran players...?
He...
.....
He moved...
.....
He's not... moving?

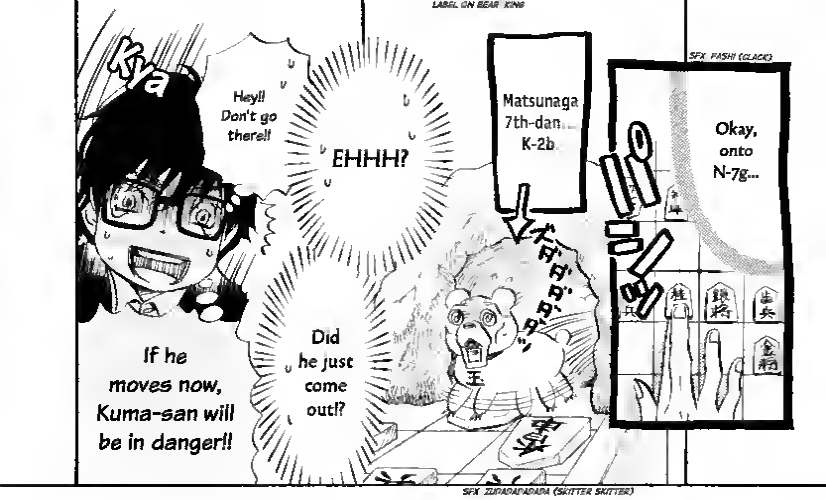

SFX: KIRIRI (SHARP)
Forty years...
How will I be in forty years...?
IF YOU PLEASE
Now...
what will he play?
IT'S TIME LET US BEGIN THE MATCH

SFX: PASHI (CLACK)
SFX: PISHI (CLACK)
—Well then, I'll start breaking up that formation with P-1e...
ピシ
Stubbornly surrounding himself, does he mean to start a long and steady battle?
S-5c, Anaguma Castle defence?
SFX: PASHI (CLACK)

P-7d
A sudden attack... Wasn't he using Anaguma Castle defence?
I can't figure out his battle technique...
–Then, I'll respond with K-4h
SFX: PASHI (CLACK)
SFX: PASHI (CLACK)
L-1b!?
Eh? What!? It's still the Anaguma Castle tactic after all!?
Heave-ho!
Work Resumes☆

I can't read him at all...
What the hell is this!?
He's not... moving randomly, right?
Probably... wants... to confuse me...?
He definitely has something up his sleeve, right?


Boah?
Eh?
There was a weird sound just now?
SFX. PARA PARA (DRIP DRIP)
SFX. PASHI (CLACK)
Alright, he went in
Then, let's go!!
P-7e
BOAH!
What kind of face is that!?
Whew...
WHITE MATSUNAGA 7TH-DAN THE "KUMA" HAS RETREATED!
SFX. FUSHUUU (PHEW)
SFX. PESHI (CLICK)
SFX. JUN (SLIP)
Ah-
SFX. ZAAA (SWISH)
SFX. KATA KATA (RATTLE RATTLE)
Here we go...
Now G-3b!?
This time it's the Mino Castle defence!?
SFX. THUD BUMP (BA-DUMP BA-DUMP)
Lance
Pawn
Bishop
W-wait a second!
He didn't think this through at all!?
No P-7e counter-measure-!?
Not only that someone is behind him!?
EH!?


LABEL ON BEAR KING
SFX PASHI (CLACK)
Okay, onto N-7g...
Matsunaga 7th-dan... K-2b
EHHH?
Hey!! Don't go there!!
Did he just come out!?
If he moves now, Kuma-san will be in danger!!
SFX ZUDADADADA (SKITTER SKITTER)

How.. difficult...
Why is this...
so difficult...

SFX TSUBUSHI (CRUSH)
つぶしっ
AUGH.

Indeed..

Eh?...

OH NO...

THAT

WHITE'S ROOK...

SFX: GAKU GAKU (SHIVER SHIVER)

5e... but that's a bit strange.

then N-3f... well, even if it gets dangerous...

–In that case, I'd still be in the lead...?

In Matsunaga's Possession: Rook, Knight, Pawn

In Kiriyama's Possession: 4 Pawns

But.. if he moves the Bishop.

SFX: BOSO BOSO... BOSO (TRMBL TRMBL TRMBL..)

Speaking of which

his acting is really bad!?

What's this.. side glance!? Eh!? What!? Is he trying to strum me along!?

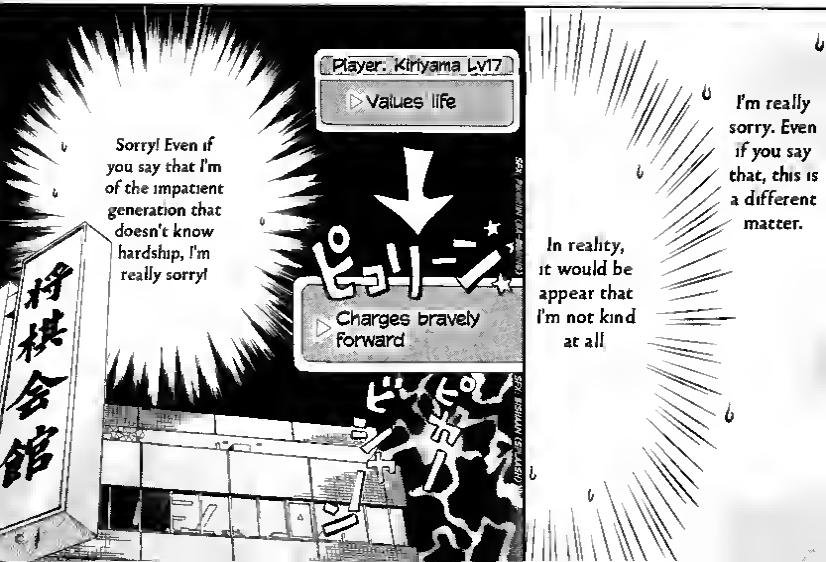
If I move the rook

Damn

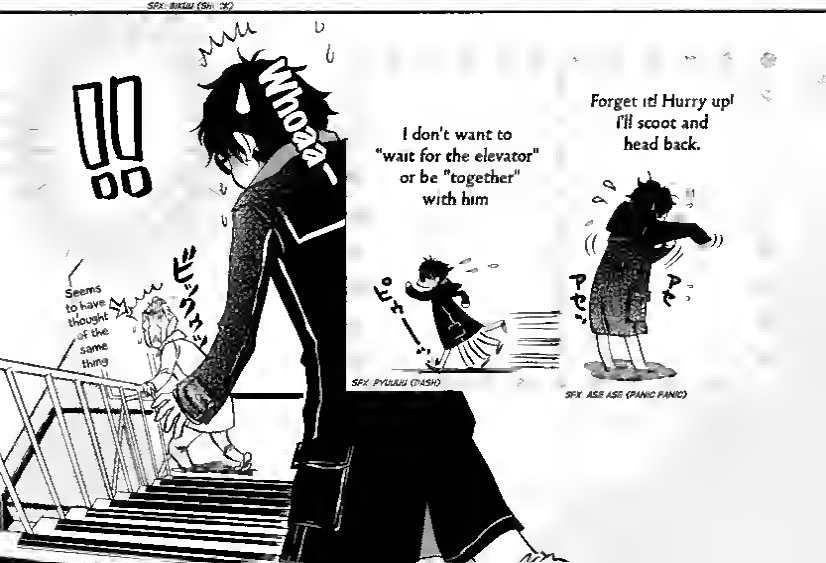
D-

SFX: CHRA... (SIDE GLANCE)

I'M A LITTLE WORRIED
... YOU KNOW
BECAUSE YOU'RE SO KIND
This is the first time I've felt this way!
It would be pretty hard to lose on purpose even if I wanted to
Oh... god. L-l-l-let's finish this. Let's do it.
So . so difficult. Somehow this is immensely difficult!
Overflowing
Overflowing


Player: Kiriyama Lv17
Values life
Charges bravely forward
Sorry! Even if you say that I'm of the impatient generation that doesn't know hardship, I'm really sorry!
In reality, it would be appear that I'm not kind at all
I'm really sorry. Even if you say that, this is a different matter.
将棋会館

What? What was that? What about the dignity of 40 years as a shogi player? Nevermind that, as a human being, what the hell was that!?
W... What a terrible attitude!
I... lost...
Don't ever do this.
SFX: GIRI GIRI (GRR GRR)
SFX: BARA BARA (SCATTER SCATTER)
I...
Is it really okay like this!?
Waaah~ At least try to make me reepect you!
SFX: BIKU! (Shi...ck)
-15 minutes later...


!!
Whoaa~
ビックゥッ
Seems to have thought of the same thing
I don't want to "wait for the elevator" or be "together" with him
SFX: PYUUU (DASH)
Forget it! Hurry up! I'll scoot and head back.
SFX: ASE ASE (PANIC PANIC)

SFX TSUKUNKO (SLIP)
SFX BEBEEN (TUMBLE)
Matsunaga-san-!
Kyaa
.....
SFX BAASHI (THUMP)
SFX PURAAA (BROWSE)
UM
ARE YOU OKAY?
Am I okay?!
I nearly died!
I just fell, that's all! Why do I need to go see a doctor!?
I HATE DOCTORS!!
D-doctor!?
LET'S GO SEE A DOCTOR AFTER ALL!!
I'll go with you so
So annoying! Stop whining!!
But, didn't you just say that you nearly died!?
That's why I say that youngsters nowadays are more and more impudent!!

I don't want to see your fa...
Enough. Go away! Hurry up!
SFX: KUNI (CRASH)
SFX: GOGOGO (RUMBLE)
Treat me...
SFX: FUKU FUKU FUKU (TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE)
Eeeeh!?
Really, which is it!?
Didn't you just tell me to go away!?
TREAT ME!!
I want to eat soba!! Actually, unagi!!!
THE BEST QUALITY THERE IS!!
You're rich, right!? Damn you!
将棋会館
Chapter 18 end

March comes in like a lion

Chika Umino

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3月のライオン

NOTES from the translators

Page 129

Anaguma (bear in the hole) Castle defence involves moving your King to the corner of the board and surrounding it with two gold generals and one silver

Page 131 132

Mino Castle defence is a strategy which involves having the gold and silver generals protect each other while protecting the King In the Anaguma Castle defence the generals work separately

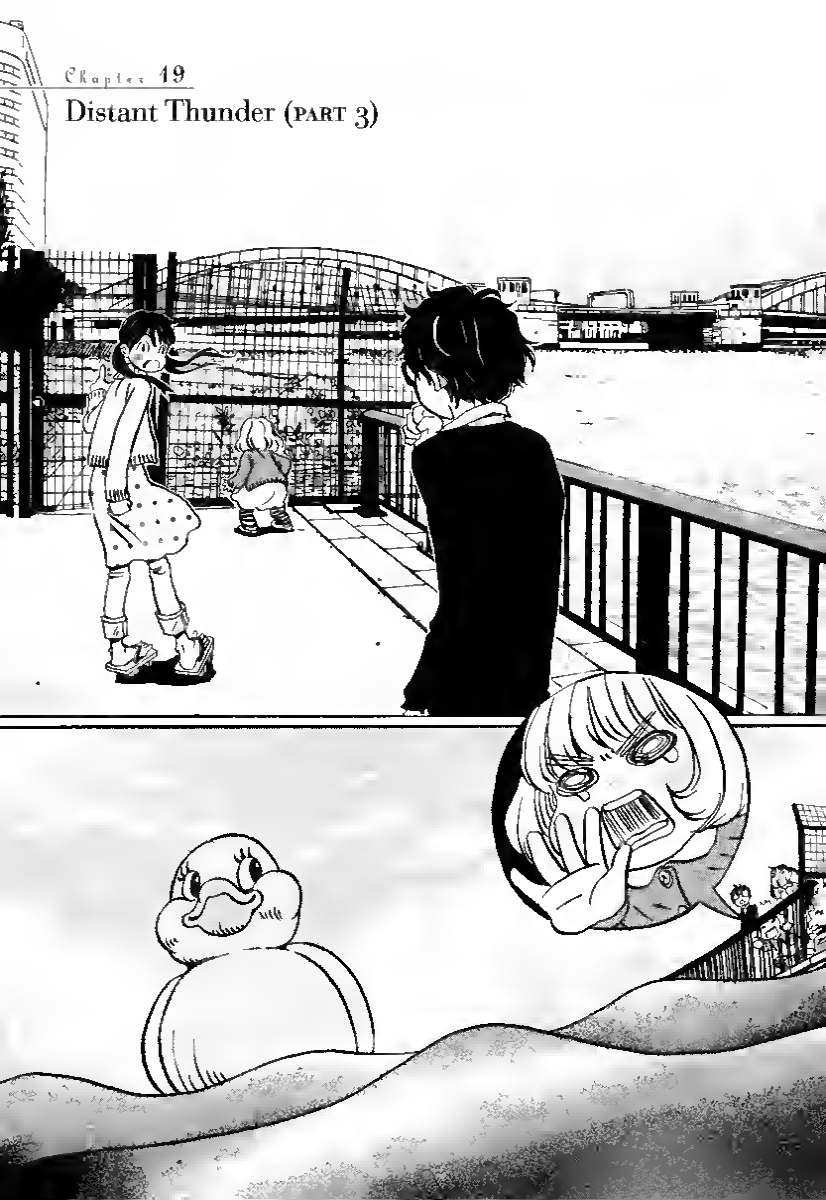
Kuma / Kuma san means "bear", a play on the Anaguma Castle defence and refers to Matsunaga's King

Page 137

Unagi is Japanese eel, commonly grilled with a sweet sauce and served with rice

Chapter 19

Distant Thunder (PART 3)



どんっ
SFX: DON (TA-DAN)
LABEL: MIYANORAMA
SFX: FASHI- (CRACK)
SFX: FUU FUU (SNIFF SNIFF)
SFX: SUMOOOO (SNIFFFFF)
Simmering hot to the coreeee!
As to be expected of the famous Miyanoyawara san!
DELICIOUSSS!
This smell..!
¥4720
(Pile of unagi ☆)
¥210
Bamboo rice balls
フォォォォ

SFX: FUFUN (MENICH)
Um
I'M THE ONE TREATING YOU
How is it? Hm?
ISN'T IT DELICIOUS? IF YOU WANT TO BE FIRST-CLASS, THEN YOU MUST START BY EATING FIRST-CLASS FOOD
WHAT'S WRONG, BRAT? FIRST TIME IN AN UNAGI RESTAURANT?
SFX: MUKU (MUNCH, MUNCH)
YOU'LL MAKE THE BEER TASTE BAD!
Hmph
DON'T RUIN THE ATMOSPHERE.
AHH~ HOW TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE, HOW COLD~!
SFX: FUU (SIGH)
NEVER MIND.
SO YOU'RE THE KID THAT KOUDA BROUGHT UP
THAT PERSON WAS REALLY THE HONOR STUDENT TOO STRONG,
BUT DEEMED ABSOLUTELY UNINTERESTING BY EVERYONE
AH— TH-AT'S RIGHT
HIS DAUGHTER IS ALSO PRETTY ANNOYING
NOT TO MENTION STRONG WILLED
EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD A BEAUTIFUL FACE LIKE A DEMON

SFX: GAKUMAKUMAKU (CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER)
SFX: KATAKATAKATA (CRATTLE RATTLE RATTLE)
SFX: KASHI (SPLASH)
Oops.
Is it that bad!?
The women at my house are also quite...
BUT...
NEVER MIND.
WOMEN ARE ALL SCARY.
BUT SHE'S FRIGHTENING WHEN SHE GROWS UP, SHE'LL DEFINITELY BE
AN EVIL WOMAN.
YOU ACTUALLY LIVED UNDER THE SAME ROOF AS THAT GIRL.
DIDN'T YOU GET BULLIED A LOT?
THAT'S RIGHT! EXCUSE ME! SAKE! THE SAKE MENU, PLEASE!!
NOOOO, THE BEER IS STARTING TO TASTE BAD~
OOH! THAT'S AIZU NO TAMA, ISN'T IT?
大吟醸
会津の魂
DID YOU KNOW!? AIZU NO TAMA!? THAT'S SAKE FROM MY HOMETOWN!!
MMM.
WHAT A NICE SCENT.
TOKYO PEOPLE
ALWAYS SAY THAT PEOPLE FROM FUKUSHIMA ARE VERY STUBBORN AND TOO SERIOUS.
BUT THEY DON'T OBSERVE ETIQUETTE OR OBSERVE THEIR SURROUNDINGS.
THEY DON'T TRULY UNDERSTAND THE SOUL OF FUKUSHIMA!
SFX: PU (SIP)

He was granted 230,000 koku of land and became the first generation feudal lord of Aizu.

He was righteous and was dedicated to his reign. He was even asked to aid the fourth shogun Ietsuna, and dived right into the midst of politics, displaying a series of cunning political strategies

It all started in 1643. A feudal lord with a domain of only 30,000 koku received recognition from the third Tokugawa shogun Iemitsu because of his shrewd and honest nature.

This gentleman,

HOSHINA MASAYUKI

was a true lord!!

Oh, and did you know? The "pension scheme" was said to be implemented by him! To avoid starvation during a famine, he implemented a law that rice be stored in granaries, regardless that he was already over 90 years old by then.

The roads were cleared in order to prevent fire.

While facing a request to rebuild the main castle keep of the burnt Edo Castle, he rejected it saying, "The modern, peaceful world does not need it, so don't waste funding on it!!"

Ahh~~ How direct! How brave! He deserves to be the pride of Aizu!!

Ueno Roads

In order to provide the citizens of Edo with drinkable water, he organized the construction of the Tamagawa water supply.

To avoid the danger of nearby dwellings catching fire, he widened the roads by 6 to 9 ken.

Tamagawa Water Supply

BUT, BEFORE THAT

another glass of Aizu no Tama!~☆

S still going.

~SO, SKIPPING 250 YEARS,

THE BOSHIN WAR STARTED...

Do you understand!? Kid!!?

It's also said to have been originally his creation! Masayuki had given a great weight to the welfare, and isn't it his psyche, brimming with pure and flawless compassion, that genuinely supports the modern Fukushima-ken people's hearts!?

Japan today, at the time, ys rice shall be istributed for free. lore

the Japanese pension scheme calls for

SFX: NIKUU (GAMAPU!)
What about the Boshin War!?
Wait a second!!
Ah! Right, right!☆
My grandchild is named Kousuke. That child can be pretty annoying~
-RIGHT
WHAT WAS I TALKING ABOUT?
So delicious.
Where did the talk about Fukushima Prefecture's soul go!?
Because he's still a kid, he has no resistance to drunkenness.
SFX: FURAAMU (FRAME)

EH!? WE'RE GOING TO ANOTHER PLACE NOW!?
I__ I'M GOING HOME FIRST!
I don't have any money left...!
YOU IDIOT! WHAT KIND OF GUY WINS AND SAYS "I'M GOING HOME FIRST"!?
I'll pay next!
I'll take you to a great place!
He's drunk... Just like in pictures, he's very drunk...
All right~!☆ Where shall we go next?
THANK YOU FOR COMING~
Legendary Stuff
(Souvenir)
SFX: FURAFURA (WOBBLE WOBBLE)

Such a thin arm...
IT SEEMS THAT THE ALCOHOL'S HITTING ME.
OH OH!
SORRY, SORRY.
HEY, YOU SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TO YOUR FEET!
CAREFUL!
Woaa
SPY PAKI (SNAP)
SPY PAKI (SNAP)
An arm that held shogi pieces for 10 years...
I HEARD THAT
MATSUNAGA-SAN IS GOING TO RETIRE SOON

I DON'T HAVE THE DRIVE TO WIN.
EH?
REALLY, I DON'T EVEN WANT TO WIN ANYMORE.
ON THE WAY TO THE SHOGI HALL, I WAS THINKING OF HOW TO LOSE SO I CAN STILL SAVE FACE.

EVEN THOUGH YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW ME,
I KNOW ABOUT YOUR SITUATION QUITE WELL.
SINCE YOU ARE THE FIFTH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT IN HISTORY TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYER
TO ME, WHO HAS HELD ON TO SHOGI FOR 40 YEARS, YET LEFT NO MARK IN HISTORY...
YOU ARE A BRIGHT, PAINFUL EXISTENCE.

TO ME,
YOU HAD COME TO DRAW THE CURTAIN TO MY SHOGI LIFE.
I COULDN'T BUT THINK OF YOU AS A DEATH GOD.
IT WAS JUST SO TERRIFY-ING,
THINKING BACK ON IT, I WAS SO PATHETIC
AND YET...
WHEN I SAW YOU SITTING IN THE MATCH ROOM,
A THOUGHT CROSSED MY MIND.

WHAT A YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL DEATH GOD.

MY INNER THOUGHTS STILL LEAPT OUT.
EVEN SO.
BUT,
"I DON'T WANT TO DIE."
IF YOU PLEASE..
THERE'S NO ONE BETTER THAN YOU TO DRAW MY CURTAIN.
AT THE VERY LEAST, I WANTED TO HAVE A PROPER MATCH BEFORE I RETIRED...

ON THE LAST STAGE PREPARED FOR ME...
AS I WAS STRUGGLING, I COULDN'T GET RID OF THAT THOUGHT THAT SPRANG TO MY HEART
"I DON'T WANT TO LOSE."
"I DON'T WANT TO LOSE"
"EVEN IF IT'S LIKE THIS, I DON'T WANT TO LOSE."
THIS FEELING AKIN TO INSANITY

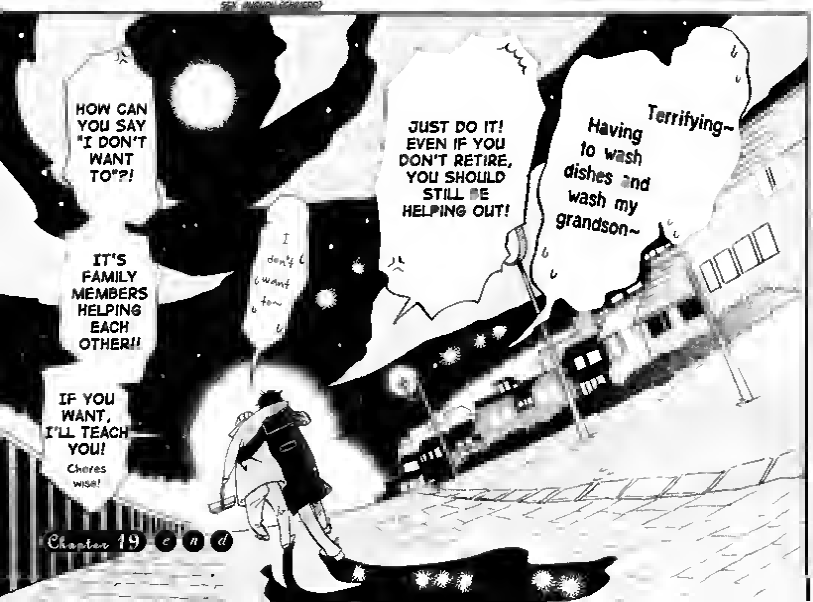
MATSU-NAGA-SAN...
DO YOU LIKE... SHOGI?
I DON'T KNOW...
HOW CAN I KNOW...
WHEN I WIN, I GET SO HAPPY THAT I WANT TO SCREAM WITH JOY
BUT WHEN I LOSE, MY HEART WRENCHES WITH PAIN
I WAS TORTURED BY THE FEELING OF BEING TOLD THAT "MY LIFE IS WORTH NOTHING" IN THIS WORLD
AND YET... I STILL DID NOT GIVE UP FROM
THESE FEEL-INGS...

HOW CAN
THESE TYPE OF THINGS
BE EXPRESSED WITH WORDS?
HELLO?
RRR
RRR

REI? WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
I THOUGHT THAT YOU'D BE FEELING DEPRESSED, SO I WANTED TO COMFORT YOU...
I HEARD... YOU WON TODAY, RIGHT?
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO. IT'S A COMPETITION AFTER ALL.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
SO,
DON'T GIVE UP, MATSUNAGA-SAN.
YOU NEED TO CONTINUE
SHOGI.

WHAT...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
REI.
REI?
OKAY.
LET'S GO.
ARGHH.
STEADY.
STAND UP.
YEAH.
HEY.
CAN YOU CONVINCE MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER?
ABOUT NOT RETIREING...
I GUESS EVERYONE IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
SINCE STAMINA IS NEEDED IN SHOGI.
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP.
IF I GIVE UP, I'LL...

I shiver just thinking about it.
Huh!? It's actually because of this!?
lose any standing I have in my family.
Sigh
I've always used shogi as an excuse to not do any housework.
If I just give up like this, I don't know how my family will take revenge.
Fufufu Well then,
I'll be in charge of teaching you.
From now on, you'll have to take a share of the housework.
Hohoho
Hehoho
UGH!!
Dad~ Help Kou-chan take a bath~


HOW CAN YOU SAY "I DON'T WANT TO"?!
IT'S FAMILY MEMBERS HELPING EACH OTHER!!
IF YOU WANT, I'LL TEACH YOU! Chores wise!
I don't want to...
JUST DO IT! EVEN IF YOU DON'T RETIRE, YOU SHOULD STILL BE HELPING OUT!
Terrifying~
Having to wash dishes and wash my grandson~

Chapter 19 end

Pocket Squirrel Sensei

A character from an educational television program that Hina and Momo like.

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chika Umino

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3月のライオン

Chapter 20

A Gift (PART 1)

December
With Christmas just around the corner, I once again received a call from Kyoko.
YOU FORGOT SOMETHING?
A WATCH?
MM—
MM?
...AH.
I FOUND IT.

THAT'S WHY I SAID TO WAIT AT MECDONALD'S IN FRONT OF THE STATION...
OH COME ON! I THINK I CAUGHT A COLD IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
ACHOO!
THAT'S WON-DERFUL.
GOTOU GAVE IT TO ME NOT TOO LONG AGO.
NO WAY, THAT PLACE IS SO NOISY
IF I DON'T WEAR IT, HE'LL GET UPSET.
SFX: ZUBI... (SNIFF...)

YOU'RE ASKING WHY...
.....
WHY WON'T YOU LET ME JUST GO TO YOUR PLACE?
REI.
.....
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT NOW? WANT ME TO GUESS?
HEHEH
JUST JOKING
WHAT A SCARY EXPRES-SION

HEY,
ANY PLANS FOR THE END OF THE YEAR?
YOU'RE GONNA COME BACK, RIGHT?
NO...
MY MATCH SCHEDULE IS PRETTY PACKED.
I HAVE TO TRAIN
MATCHES? DON'T YOUR MATCHES FOR THIS YEAR END WITH YASUI-SAN ON THE 24TH?
AH, OH YEA, SPEAKING OF YASUI-SAN,
I HEARD HE FINALLY DECIDED TO DIVORCE.

EVEN THOUGH HE'S NORMALLY A MODEST PERSON,
AND KIND OF MEEK,
WHEN HE LOSES, HE GETS VIOLENTLY DRUNK AND GAMBLES, YOU KNOW?
HIS WIFE HAS PUT UP WITH IT WELL ALL THIS TIME
東
BUT THINK ABOUT THE POOR DAUGHTER
IT MUST HAVE BEEN SCARY FOR HER
SHE'S HAD TO LIVE UNDER THE SAME ROOF AS A FATHER WHO BECOMES A DIFFERENT PERSON WHENEVER HE LOSES, YOU KNOW?
Ah...
BUT, THE LITTLE GIRL STILL SAID,
I really can't stand it.
I can't stand it.
"I WANT TO BE WITH DADDY FOR CHRISTMAS."

the way Kyoko's words cling so heavily.
I can't stand
IT SURE MAKES YOU WANT TO CRY ..
DON'T YOU THINK?
...GEEZ.
about these words fraught with poison
what I can't stand
COME ON.
But above all,
HEY, REI. ARE YOU LISTENING?
is me who wants to hear them.
IF YOU'RE GONNA WEAR IT, THEN MAKE SURE TO WEAR IT PROPERLY
YOUR SCARF'S GONNA FLY AWAY.

CHILDREN ARE SO PITIFUL,
SINCE THEY CAN'T CHOOSE THEIR OWN PARENTS...
AH, BUT ON SECOND THOUGHT,
YOU'RE DIFFERENT
YOU CHOSE YOUR OWN PARENTS, DIDN'T YOU
YOU CHOSE SOMEBODY ELSE'S FATHER
SFX: HAHAHA
SFX: KYAHAHA
Ah,
Sure.
Hey, Dad, can I open it now?
SFX: KYAHAHA
SFX: KYAHAHA

SFX: PUN SUKA (HAPPY)
Ohh.
It's a Game Bomb.
GAME BOMB
Geeez
Dad, I'm already in middle school!
Come on! What is this?!
What's with this giant teddy bear!
SFX: ELSE (OTHER HAND)
SFX: POKA SUKA (WHACK)
SFX: POKA SUKA (WHACK)

There was no way they wouldn't understand
the price and the meaning
of those beautiful shogi pieces
and Father's feelings...
or anyone who is aiming to become a shogi player...
For a child of this family,

Would a toy have been better for you too?
What do you think, Rei?

At that time,
Kyoko
and Ayumu
must have been really hurt...
There was no way they wouldn't understand.
No...
Thank you very much.
I'm really happy
to receive this.
HEY,
ISN'T IT HEART-WRENCHING?
A DADDY WHO COMES HOME VICTORIOUS,
OR A DADDY WHO COMES HOME DEFEATED...

SO
WHICH WOULD BE MORE FITTING
FOR THEIR LAST CHRISTMAS TOGETHER?
CLIP: MORNING
BOOK REPORT CARD, KIRIYAMA REI
HMM
EXCEPT FOR P E AND MUSIC, EVERYTHING ELSE LOOKS ABOUT AVERAGE
ACTUALLY, MATH AND PHYSICS ARE REALLY GOOD
SO, HERE
朝。
通知表
桐山

Are you telling me to lose?
EHHH!?
No, that's how I make a living!!!
It'll get quite dangerous if your matches continue to increase next term ☆
Ohoho Ahaha You have to be careful ☆
Even though you barely met the required attendance,
AHAHA ☆
YOU NEED TO BE IN SENDAGAYA BEFORE 9:30, RIGHT?
YOU SHOULD WATCH THE TIME...
STILL, YOU'RE REALLY BUSY.
HAVING MATCHES UP UNTIL THE CLOSING CEREMONY.
HEY,
YOU WANNA COME BACK AFTER YOUR MATCH IS OVER?
Dammit! I wasn't invited! Ufufu☆
WELL, I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.
IT'LL BE TWO GUYS, SORDIDLY PLAYING SHOGI AND EATING CAKE...
You're a teacher!
No, I haven't heard about it.
Of course I haven't.
Please don't tell me about it.
Have you heard about it?
Speaking of which, after today's closing ceremony,
our class is apparently going to host a Christmas party.
2-B
クリスマス
田中家
7PM
¥500
POSTER: 2-B CHRISTMAS TANAKA'S HOUSE 7PM ~17:00 ¥500 MENU: SOO YUN GIFT EXCHANGE: YIN

SFX: KYAA
Hey, Kiriyamaaa!
At least wait for me to finiiish!
DOESN'T THIS JUST SAY THAT I'M A MEAN TEACHER!?
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE
—LIKE,
I TURN AROUND FOR A BIT AND HE DISAP-PEARS!?
OH NO!!
Poof.

"This is just like report card time"...
In one year...
There was once time I suddenly thought...
I wonder when...
Christmas became a painful thought...
SFX: TOTON TOTON TATAN
SFX: TOTON TATAN TOTON

How much love did I receive from them?
my parents...
my family,
my friends,
At the end of the year, I'm tallying up...

In what way was the love expressed?

Yasui 6th dan
Please stand clear
The doors are closing
せんだがや
SENDAGAYA
Senda-gaya.
Senda-gaya.

STILL SAID, "I WANT TO BE WITH DADDY FOR CHRISTMAS "
BUT THE LITTLE GIRL
AT LEAST FOR CHRISTMAS... HUH

Chapter 20 end

FUKU-chan◎

Sounds like a baby crying in the night.
A terrifying cat (looks like an owl).

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Ch. 44 Umino

March comes in like a lion

Chika Umino

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3月のライオン

Chapter 21

A Gift (PART 2)

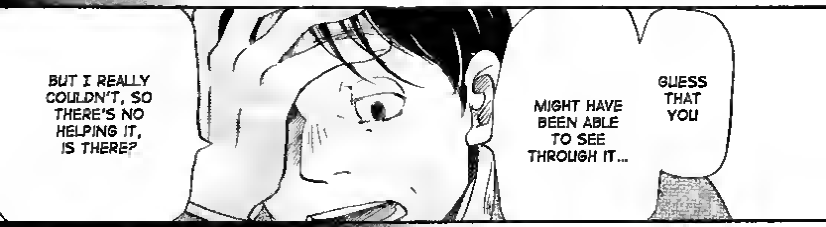
The shogi match with Yasui-san that afternoon

neared its end too quickly.

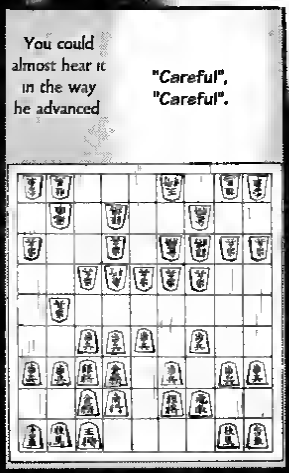
I DIDN'T REALISE IT UNTIL THE END. TOO BAD, TOO BAD.
BUT...
IF I'D REALISED, I WOULD'VE GONE FOR IT.
AH— YES, YES.
THAT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?
IT'S FUNNY HOW AFTER THE 8F MOVE, I COULD HAVE STABBED THE KNIGHT IN 9E...

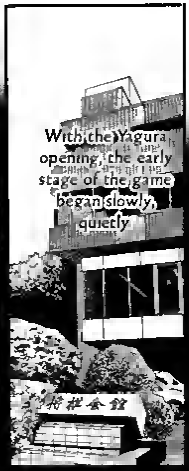
–Rambling on, almost as if to himself,

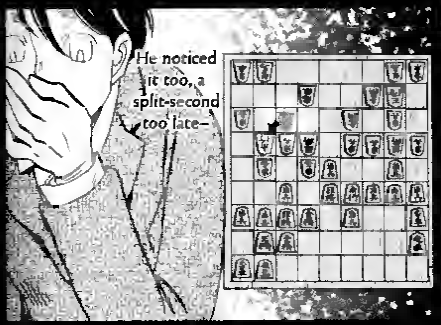
...Yasui-san's sighs



mixed with the smell of alcohol, stirred my heart.







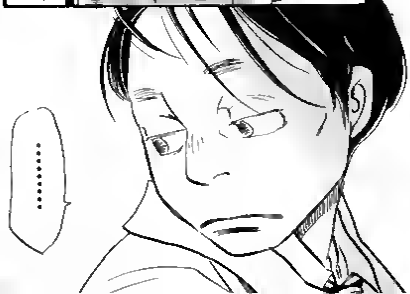
–Just then,
Yasui-san's presence lost strength and I could see him slackening.
And had he, with the Knight pulled, pressed on, there'd be no telling where the round would go...
–But, no, if the King's head were to be attacked after 8F, we don't know what would happen next.
Wait, stop! Why?
How come?!
Why are you giving up?!
The little girl still said...
Why?!
There are still
ways to fight!

your precious family...
Your concentration, your focus...
Don't let go.
don't let it go this easily.
WITH DADDY
FOR CHRISTMAS.
I WANT TO BE
Do something, please!
I'VE LOST.
Please don't let go!
THE POST-MORTEM ANALYSIS... LET'S END IT HERE, ALRIGHT?
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME HERE FOR TODAY.

X'mas
merry christmas

NOT HERE...
WHERE IS HE?
YASUI-SAN!!
YASUI-SAN!

SIGN: KANOYASU BAR



YASUI-SAN!!
OKAY OKAY, YOU PEST
merry Christmas
SFX: BA (SNATCH)
THAT'S NOT MINE
I DUNNO WHOSE IT IS.
SIGH~
AND THIS WAS THE LAST CHRISTMAS..
X'mas
merry Christmas

将棋会館

SIGN: KANNONZAKA

SFX: ZAZAZA (WHOOSH)
SFX: HAA HAA HAA HAA (HUFF HUFF HUFF)
SFX: HAA HAA HAA HAA (HUFF HUFF HUFF)

AAAHHHH—
AAA-
RRGH!!
WHAT WAS I *SUPPOSED* TO HAVE DONE THEN?!
IT'S ALL *MY* FAULT?!

I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T!
LEARN FROM THAT!
YOU LOST BECAUSE YOU WERE WEAK!!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE WEAK!!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME!
I'M PUTTING EVERY-THING AT STAKE HERE!
DON'T COME THEN!!
STOP SAYING YOU KNOW BUT YOU CAN'T DO IT!!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR WEAKLINGS!!!
DON'T SNEAK OFF AND GET DRUNK!
I MIGHT NOT HAVE ANYTHING BUT SHOGI, SHOGI, AND MORE SHOGI!

I know there's a beast that lives inside me.
IF YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY...!
but the truth is,
I said I had no reason left to fight,
that would pick a fight,
and grasp at the threads keeping himself alive,
A beast that would lash out, bite, and tear apart anything in order to live on,
IF YOU'RE ABLE TO RUN AWAY...
THEN WHY...
no matter the misfortune he brings,
no matter what happens because of it...
Chapter 21 end

March comes in like a lion

Chika Umino

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3月のライオン

NOTES from the translators

Page 175

The *Yagura* castle an opening move considered to be the strongest defensive position in shogi. It has a strongly protected king and a well fortified line of pawns, while the bishop, rook, and a pawn all support later attacks by the rook's silver or knight.

Page 176

King's head means the square (or sometimes the area) in front of the king. It is thought to be one of the weakest points of the king.

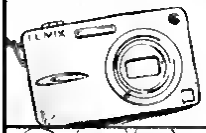
Umino and Her Merry Bunch

The Chapter of How Great It Is to Release Volume 2

There are many scenes where the protagonist, Rei-kun, thinks a lot in his head, so I thought I'd draw for him a boundless sky and a river. Hence I went location hunting, taking heaps of pictures for reference.

I'VE ALMOST REACHED 20,000 PHOTOS. I'M SO HAPPY IT'S ALL DIGITAL NOW.

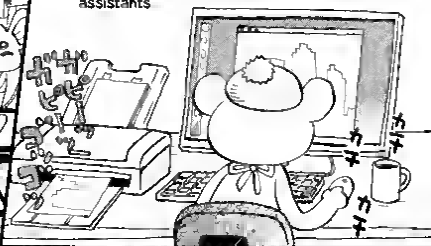
I'M SCARED TO THINK HOW MUCH IT'D COST ME WITH FILM.



Finally, the second volume of March Comes in Like a Lion is released, bringing no end to my joy
Have you been well?
Hello everyone, this is Umino

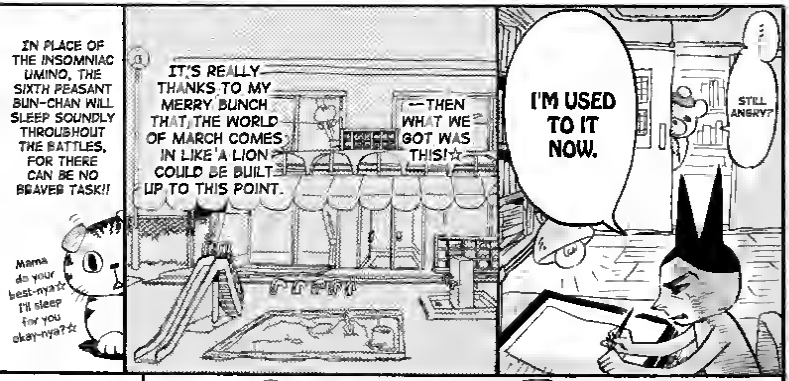
and then I entrusted the tracing to my assistants.

I copied the pictures to my computer, chose and printed certain landscapes to go with the storyboards,



SFX: RAPII RAPII (BA BA)(BE BA BA)(BE) BU BU (BRUC BRUC) SFX: KACHI KACHI KACHI (CLICK CLICK CLICK)

AND IT'S MIGHT!!
I DUN' SEE IT!
There! That red and white roof thing☆
WHERE?!
Let's see...
Oh!☆ There!
AND
HARE-CHAN... here☆
There
THE ONLY VILLAGE WHO CAN DRAW WITHOUT PHOTOS


IN PLACE OF THE INSOMNIAC UMINO, THE SIXTH PEASANT BUN-CHAN WILL SLEEP SOUNDLY THROUGHOUT THE BATTLES, FOR THERE CAN BE NO BRAVER TASK!!
Mama do your best-nya☆ I'll sleep for you okay-nya?☆
IT'S REALLY THANKS TO MY MERRY BUNCH THAT THE WORLD OF MARCH COMES IN LIKE A LION COULD BE BUILT UP TO THIS POINT.
—THEN WHAT WE GOT WAS THIS!☆
I'M USED TO IT NOW.
STILL ANGRY?

WE'LL KEEP MARCHING ON, TRYING OUR VERY BEST TO DRAW, SO I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY IF YOU FOLLOW US THROUGH.
♥Love Umino
AND THANKS FOR THE GREAT COLUMNS!!
THAT'S HOW THE STORY-BOARD GOES
Sorry
WHY?
COMING OUT?
NAI-NAI?
COMING FROM ANASUMA?
EH? WHAT?
Senzaki 8th dan
—AND THEN, OUR CONSULTANT, SENZAKI 8TH DAN!!!
SORRY I'M ALWAYS ASKING FOR SUCH DIFFICULT SHOGI KIFU.. I'M REALLY THANKFUL.
SHIRT (EDITOR) TICA-SAN

VIRTUAL WALKING MAP

SENDAGAYA

STATION

GYM

Road
Park
Large Building
Shrine
Convenience Store

Virtual View Point

BLUE: VOLUME 01 GYM: VOLUME 02

- (K) P.128 (Chapter18) / P.170 Chapter20)
- (L) P.12 (Chapter1 / P.159 Chapter11
- (M) P.13 (Chapter1
- (N) P.128 (Chapter18)
- (O) P.13 (Chapter1 / P.51 (Chapter5) / P.82/P.94 (Chapter16) / P.127 (Chapter18 P.178 (Chapter21)
- (P) P.

March comes in like a lion

HOW TO USE THIS VIRTUAL WALKING MAP

Take volume 1 & 2 of "March Comes in Like a Lion" and this map and let's go to Sendagaya Tokyo!

<Tsukishima Subway Station>
Tokyo Metro Tozai Oneda Line

View the scenery in 360° through the ◯ View Points. The world of "March Comes in Like a Lion" lies in various places. Enjoy the virtual stroll!!

VIRTUAL WALKING MAP

TSUKISHIMA

Vol. 4

Road
Bridge
Park
Large Building
Shrine
Convenience Store
Gas Station

RIVER

BRIDGE

SCHOOL

MORI-DORI STREET

STATION

EXIT 1
EXIT 2
EXIT 3
EXIT 4
EXIT 5
EXIT 6
EXIT 7
EXIT 8
EXIT 9

March comes in like a lion

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Virtual View Point

BLUE: VOLUME 01 GREEN: VOLUME 02

- (A) P.33(Chapter2 / P.34 Chapter 2 / P.121(Chapter 7)
- (B) P.7 Chapt 4 / P.45 (C
- (C) P.84(Chapter4) / P.89 (Chapter16
- (D) P. 60(Chapter8) / P.42 / P.53(Chapter3) P.88(Chapter15) / P.36(Chapter16)
- (E) P.54(Chapter3 / P.96 Chapter16)
- (F) 36(Chapter8) / P. 48 Chapter9 / P. 97(Chapter10)
- (G) P.23(Chapter12)
- (H) P.1 7 P. 08(Chapter6 / P.57(Chapter14
- (I) P.24(Chapter1) / P.49(Chapter2) / P.7(Chapter11 / P.52 Chapter13)
- (J) P.22-23 Chapter

March comes in like a lion

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